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PART XXIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

March 1878.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Layard ..	239	Feb. 16, 1878	British fleet ordered to Constantinople. Russians wish to send troops into the town. Observations	1
2	„ „ ..	240	17,	Reported Russian advance in violation of the Armistice. Explanations as to. Vindicates accuracy of his statements. . ..	1
3	„ „ ..	241	18,	State of affairs. Memorandum by a Greek gentleman who has just arrived from Adrianople	3
4	„ „ ..	242	18,	Armistice. Despatch from Consul Reade ..	4
5	„ „ ..	243	18,	Arrest and imprisonment of Suleiman Pasha. .	5
6	„ „ ..	244	18,	Crete. Letter from Christian Governor, who praises Consul Sandwith's conduct ..	5
7	„ „ ..	247	19,	Adrianople and Gallipoli. Despatch from Consul Blunt and Vice-Consul Odoni respecting proceedings of the Russians ..	6
8	„ „ ..	251	19,	Irritation against England at General Skobeleff's head-quarters. Danger to the Embassies in the event of a Russian occupation of Constantinople	11
9	„ „ ..	252	19,	British fleet and threatened Russian occupation of Constantinople. Has given explanations to the Sultan	11
10	„ „ ..	253	19,	Dismissal of Server Pasha in consequence of his statement that Mr. Layard promised the Turks material help from England ..	12
11	„ „ ..	254	20,	Council of State has decided not to resist Russian occupation of Constantinople. Dissolution of Turkish Parliament .. .	13
12	„ „ ..	255	20,	Defeat of Greek insurgents at Ajourna. Memorandum by Count Zichy	14
13	„ „ ..	256	20,	Outrages at Bourgas. Report from Captain Hammond of Her Majesty's ship "Torch" .	15
14	„ „ ..	259	20,	Outrages by Cossacks and Bulgarians near Keshan. Report from Captain Fife ..	15
15	„ „ ..	262 Confidential	22,	French policy. Conversation with the new French Ambassador	16
16	„ „ ..	264 Confidential	22,	Congress. Austria objects to further delay asked for by Russia	17
17	„ „ ..	265	22,	Russian demand for surrender of Turkish fleet refused by the Sultan	17
18	„ „ ..	268	22,	Report on Asiatic provinces by Mr. Rassam ..	18
19	Mr. Wyndham ..	113	18,	Greek Government denies that Greek regular troops have again crossed frontier. Armed bands are still leaving for Turkey ..	19
20	„ „ ..	114	18,	Further respecting above.	19
21	„ „ ..	115	18,	Escape of prisoners from the prison at Pyrgos. Report from Consul at Patras. Has represented matter to Greek Government ..	20
22	„ „ ..	117 Confidential	18,	Dispute as to territory at Agrapha. M. de Sabouroff's explanations	21
23	„ „ ..	118	19,	More complete list of leaders of irregular bands in Thessaly and Epirus.	21
24	„ „ ..	120	19,	Mr. Ogle's appeal on behalf of Greek insurgents. Has communicated with Turkish Minister and British Vice-Consul at Larissa	22
25	„ „ ..	121	20,	Movement of troops and escape of prisoners at Pyrgos	22
26	„ „ ..	122	20,	Enrolment of volunteers in the Morea continues	23
27	„ „ ..	124	20,	Turkish Minister's remonstrance with Greek Government respecting proceedings on the frontier	24
28	„ „ ..	125	20,	Interview with M. Delyanni	24
29	„ „ ..	126	20,	Movement of troops. Report from Consul at the Piræus	25
30	Consul Sandwith ..	18	14,	Disturbances in Crete. Conversation with Costaki Pasha	25

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
31	Consul Sandwith ..	19	Feb. 17, 1878	Proceedings of insurgents in Crete	27
32	„ „ ..	20	18,	Appeal of Cretan Committee to the Great Powers	28
33	Lord Odo Russell ..	149	27,	German Government denies that squadron is to be sent to Turkish waters	29
34	Consul Sir C. Sebright	11	25,	Insurrectionary movements in Albania and Epirus	30
35	Mr. White ..	30	23,	Map showing the line of armistice demarcation on Servian frontier	31
36	Sir A. Paget ..	170 Confidential	26,	M. Depretis' views as to effect of Russian conditions with regard to the Straits ..	32
37	M. d'Harcourt ..	..	28,	Russian concessions. Relations with Austria more friendly. Telegram from M. Waddington	32
38	Admiralty	..	28,	Report from Sir E. Commerell at Gallipoli ..	33
39	Mr. Layard ..	278 Telegraphic	Mar. 1,	Montenegrin Delegates have acknowledged Armistice	34
40	„ „ ..	279 Telegraphic	1,	Russians have occupied Erzeroum	34
41	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	1,	Bulgaria. Russians press for Dédéagatch, but will allow a military road to the Turks ..	34
42	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	1,	Cession of Beikos, and friendly entry of Russians into Constantinople. Count Beust's communication. Has he heard anything about Beikos?	34
43	To Mr. Thomson ..	17	1,	Persian complaints against Turkey. Reply to Malcom Khan	35
44	To Sir H. Elliot ..	168 Confidential	1,	Cession of Beikos. Substance of Count Beust's communication	35
45	Consul T. F. Reade ..	5	Feb. 9,	Recall of Sabri Pasha from Smyrna causes universal regret	36
46	Mr. Wyndham ..	128	22,	"Panhellenion" running backwards and forwards between Crete and the Piræus ..	36
47	„ „ ..	129	22,	Raising of bands of volunteers and their departure from Patras. From Consul Wood ..	37
48	„ „ ..	130	23,	Attack on Platano. Safety of women and children. Despatch from Vice-Consul Suter	38
49	„ „ ..	131	23,	Greek proceedings on Epirus frontier. Has learnt nothing respecting	39
50	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	22,	Information respecting the insurrection in Crete. Decree of the General Assembly, proclaiming its union with Greece ..	39
51	„ „ ..	..	23,	Pillage by Turkish troops at Volo. Report from the Greek Consul there	40
52	Sir A. Paget ..	167 Most Conf.	26,	His opinions on Italian policy. Thinks it not improbable Italy might co-operate with England and Austria	41
52*	„ „ ..	170 Confidential	26,	Conversation with M. Depretis as to reported conditions of peace between Russia and Turkey, Conference, &c.	42*
53	Lord Lyons ..	200 Confidential	Mar. 1,	Conference. M. Waddington expects no favourable result from	43
54	Admiralty	Confidential	1,	Telegraph cable. Scio and Tenedos. Agent of Eastern Telegraph Company should come to an understanding with the Turkish Telegraph Director. Service between Dardanelles and Constantinople should be improved	44
55	Mr. Layard ..	281 Telegraphic Secret	1,	Cession of Kotur to Persia. General Ignatieff trying to accomplish	44
56	Sir H. Elliot ..	46 Telegraphic	1,	Credit asked for by Austria. General belief that it is for Bosnian occupation. Told Baron Orczy this, who denied the truth of it.	44
57	„ „	46 Telegraphic	1,	Meeting of Delegations. Day not fixed. Credit for 60,000,000 florins will be asked for ..	45
58	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic Most Conf.	1,	M. Depretis' tone confirms impression that Italy would join England and Austria ..	45
59	Mr. Layard ..	284 Telegraphic Secret	2,	Peace not signed as expected. Safvet Pasha refused. Russians threaten to break off negotiations	45
60	„ „ ..	285 Telegraphic	2,	Dragoman Mariniteh and General Ignatieff. The former menaced	45
61	To Mr. Thomson ..	Telegraphic	2,	Cession of Kotur. Repeats No. 55. Any foundation for this report?	46
61A	To Lord Lyons ..	169A	2,	Conference. To come to England respecting.	46
61B	„ „ ..	171	2,	Probable Conditions of Peace. Telegram from M. Waddington to Marquis d'Harcourt ..	46

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
62	To Mr. Wyndham ..	38	Mar. 2, 1878	Greeks wish to be represented at the Conference. Her Majesty's Government will carefully consider request	46
63	Consul Green ..	Telegraphic	2,	Work of demarcation progresses slowly ..	47
64	Mr. Layard ..	286 Telegraphic	3,	Russian telegraph clerks at San Stefano. Respecting admission of	47
65	„ „ ..	287 Telegraphic	3,	Porte would consent to telegraph cable being laid from Dardanelles to Constantinople on same terms as to Lagos	47
66	„ „ ..	288 Telegraphic	3,	Peace Preliminaries will be signed this evening. Ironclads will not be given up ..	47
67	Consul Sebright ..	Telegraphic	3,	Avlona quiet. Fugitives from Sta. Quaranta brought by "Rapid." Fighting in Delvino valley	47
68	Lord A. Loftus ..	217	Feb. 15,	Fleet at Constantinople. Conversation and tone of Prince Gortchakow. His Excellency will make no further assurances respecting Gallipoli	48
69	„ „ ..	219	15,	Conference. No decision respecting place.	48
70	„ „ ..	223	15,	Conversation with Prince Gortchakow .. Respecting Mr. Layard: that he urged the Turks to resist entry into Constantinople. Conversation with Prince Gortchakow. Desirable to give a formal denial of this assertion	49
71	„ „ ..	244 Secret	19,	Naval movements. Freedom of the Bosphorus. Vital importance of	49
72	„ „ ..	246 Private and Confidential	20,	If England engages not to occupy Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, Russia should not occupy the Bosphorus	50
73	„ „ ..	268 Confidential	25,	Memorandum of 21st instant to Count Schouvaloff. Communicated to the Great Powers with the Russian reply.	50
74	„ „ ..	272	25,	Discrepancy at end of Article I in text of Protocol of Preliminaries of Peace published and signed	51
75	„ „ ..	275	26,	General tone of Russian press respecting present state of Eastern affairs. Memorandum by Mr. Mitchell	51
76	„ „ ..	278	27,	"Novoe Vremia" article. Maximum of concessions by Russia would be Dardanelles question and territorial indemnity to Servia and Montenegro	52
77	„ „ ..	281	27,	Russian press on Prince Bismarck's speech: it virtually abandons Russia. She must now keep Austria and England apart ..	54
78	Acting-Consul Freeman	9 Political	20,	Continued occupation of territory by Servians since the Armistice. Muslim Bosnians would prefer Austria to Servia as ruler ..	55
79	Lord Odo Russell ..	144 Secret	25,	Prince Bismarck thinks Austria will agree to new arrangements in Turkey, but has counselled moderation to Russia	56
80	„ „ ..	146 Secret	26,	Prince Bismarck thinks Austria might agree to new arrangements if she annexed Bosnia and Servia	57
81	„ „ ..	148 Confidential	26,	Russian answer to recommendation in No. 80 evasive, as if she wished to get out of the Congress	57
82	„ „ ..	155	Mar. 2,	Russian Ambassador denies preceding ..	58
83	M. Delyanni ..	..	Feb. 11.	Demand of Greece, as Protector of the Ottoman Greeks, to be admitted to Congress ..	58
84	Admiralty	Secret	Mar. 2,	Protest of the Governor of the Dardanelles against the entrance of the fleet	59
85	„	Confidential	2,	Passage of the fleet, February 12, against protest of Turkish Pasha	60
86	Mr. Layard ..	289 Telegraphic	4,	Peace signed. Reduction of terms	64
87	„ „ ..	290 Telegraphic	4,	Russians erecting works on the Sea of Marmora	64
88	„ „ ..	291 Telegraphic	4,	Further as to peace. Continued advance of Russian outposts	64
89	„ „ ..	292 Telegraphic	4,	Reduction of terms in No. 86 without foundation	64
90	Sir H. Elliot ..	48 Telegraphic	4,	Montenegrin Agent has no special object in view	65
91	„ „ ..	49 Telegraphic	4,	No information as to alleged requests of Bosnians to be incorporated with Austria ..	65
92	„ „ ..	50 Telegraphic	4,	No news as to meeting of Conference ..	65

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
93	Lord A. Loftus ..	54 Telegraphic	Mar. 4, 1878	Signature of Peace, March 3	66
94	„ „ ..	55 Telegraphic	4,	Full text of Treaty not expected before next week	65
95	„ „ ..	55 Telegraphic Very Conf.	4,	It is said Prince Bismarck accepts presidency of Congress	66
96	Consul-General Eldridge	Telegraphic	4,	Country quiet, but future uncertain	66
97	Consul Moore ..	Telegraphic	4,	Country quiet	66
98	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield	Telegraphic Confidential	4,	If Austria attacks Russia, Roumania will still adhere to latter	66
99	To Sir H. Elliot ..	4 Telegraphic	4,	To try and ascertain Austrian proposals for government of Bulgaria, and suggest one ..	66
100	„ „ ..	5 Telegraphic	4,	When is Conference likely to meet? ..	66
101	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	4,	No "secret" telegrams will be published ..	67
102	To British Ambassadors	Telegraphic	4,	Substance of Treaty of Peace	67
103	To Mr. Layard ..	314	4,	Approval of Mr. Rassam's travels, as reported in despatch No. 268 from Mr. Layard ..	67
104	To Lord A. Loftus and other Ambassadors	197	4,	Copy of *communiqué* from Russian Ambassador. Substance of Treaty of Peace	67
105	To Sir H. Elliot ..	169	4,	Extending No. 99	68
106	„ „ ..	172	4,	Extending No. 100	68
107	To Mr. Wyndham ..	39	4,	Greek regulars in Epirus. Approves his proceedings	68
108	„ „ ..	40	4,	Removal of women from Platano. Approves his proceedings	68
109	„ „ ..	41	4,	Greek regulars in Epirus. Approves language reported in his despatch No. 125 ..	69
110	To Consul Sandwith ..	6 Political	4,	Crete. Copy of M. Delyanni of February 15. To report thereon	69
111	Admiralty	Confidential	4,	Admiral's proceedings in Sea of Marmora. Sultan has begged that fleet would not come up to Constantinople	69
112	„	Secret	5,	Most desirable to carry telegraph cable from Dardanelles to Constantinople, as suggested by Mr. Layard	71
113	Server Pasha ..	..	4,	Signature of the Peace, March 3. Announcing	71
114	Mr. Layard ..	292 Telegraphic	5,	Russian troops will commence leaving after Treaty is ratified. Some will stay till British fleet leaves	71
115	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	5,	Admiral wants to move fleet to Ismid ..	71
116	Sir H. Elliot ..	51 Telegraphic	5,	Answer to No. 99. Thinks "Bulgaria" should be confined to the north of the Balkans ..	72
117	„ „ ..	52 Telegraphic Very Conf.	5,	Conversation with Emperor, who says Russian designs must be combated by advocating claims of Greeks and other nationalities ..	72
118	„ „ ..	53 Telegraphic	5,	Count Andrassy likely to consent to Conference being at Berlin	72
119	„ „ ..	54 Telegraphic	5,	Austria has no plans for "Bulgarian" constitution, but Count Andrassy's language is very vague	73
120	„ „ ..	55 Telegraphic	5,	Roumanian Agent says exasperation against Russia is intense	73
121	„ „ ..	56 Telegraphic	5,	Count Andrassy thinks England and Austria together can carry their points	73
122	„ „ ..	57 Telegraphic	5,	Roumania will not take Dobrudsha for Bessarabia	73
123	Lord Odo Russell ..	4 Telegraphic Secret	5,	Austria supposed to wish Conference to be held at Berlin	74
124	„ „ ..	5 Telegraphic Confidential	5,	Prince Bismarck said not to object to Conference being at Berlin	74
125	Consul Kirby Green ..	Telegraphic	5,	Demarcation Commission dissolved.. ..	74
126	Mr. Taylour Thomson.	Telegraphic	5,	Answer to Foreign Office telegram of March 2. No understanding between Persia and Russia about Kotur	74
127	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	5,	To find out number of Greek communities in proposed Bulgaria	74
129	„ „ ..	320	5,	Extending No. 127	75
130	Consul Sandwith ..	23 Political	Feb. 25,	Disturbances in Crete. Probably attributable to Greek agents, not Cretan Assembly ..	75
131	„ „ ..	24 Political	25,	Proposed Consular mediation for keeping the peace. Has fallen through	76

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
132	Consul-General Fawcett	27 Consular	Feb. 25, 1878	Number of registered British subjects in Constantinople	77
133	Lord Lyons ..	204	Mar. 3,	Has told Roumanian Agent that Her Majesty's Government could not yet decide about questions raised by Roumania	77
134	Mr. Layard ..	295 Telegraphic	5,	Passports required to enter or leave Turkey ..	77
135	„ „ ..	296 Telegraphic	5,	Grand Duke will privately visit the Sultan. His Majesty wants fleet to leave, as the Russians will not go till it does	77
136	„ „ ..	297 Telegraphic	6,	Receipt of No. 102. Need he send a summary of the Treaty?	78
137	Lord Odo Russell ..	6 Telegraphic	6,	If England agrees, Bismarck does not object to Congress being at Berlin	78
138	„ „ ..	7 Telegraphic Secret	6,	Reasons for Prince Bismark's assent ..	78
139	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	6,	Answer to No. 136. A full summary of certain points in the Treaty is wanted by Her Majesty's Government	78
140	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	6,	Answer to No. 115. Fleet may go to Ismid..	78
141	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	6,	Cable should go to Constantinople, as suggested in No. 112	79
142	„ „ ..	321	6,	"Daily News" and Server Pasha. Approves proceedings reported in his despatch No. 253..	79
143	„ „ ..	322	6,	Russian advance. Quite satisfied with the information furnished by him respecting. Answer to his despatch No. 240.. ..	79
144	„ „ ..	323 Secret	6,	Answer to his despatch No. 257. Occupation of Asiatic shore, &c. Satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at confidence shown by Sultan in Mr. Layard	79
145	„ „ ..	326	6,	Extending No. 140	80
146	„ „ ..	328	6,	Extending No. 141	80
147	To Lord A. Loftus ..	198	6,	Passage of the fleet through Dardanelles. Approves his communications with Prince Gortchakow, as reported in his despatch No. 217	80
148	Consul-Kirby Green ..	24 Political	Feb. 21,	Continued hostile advance of Turkish troops in Mirdicia	80
149	Count Beust ..	..	Mar. 7,	Proposes that forthcoming Congress should be held at Berlin	81
150	Sir A. Paget ..	3 Telegraphic	6,	Reports from Vienna respecting possible occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria. Conversation with M. Depretis respecting..	81
151	Mr. Layard ..	298 Telegraphic	6,	Summary of Articles of Treaty of San Stefano	82
152	„ „ ..	299 Telegraphic	7,	New limits of Bulgaria. Details of those proposed	83
153	Lord Odo Russell ..	8 Telegraphic Confidential	7,	Emperor of Germany has assented to the Congress being held at Berlin	83
154	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	7,	Commander-in-chief of Black Sea goes to Constantinople to-morrow to confer with Grand Duke Nicholas	84
155	To Mr. Layard ..	329 Secret	7,	Approves his language held at interview with the Sultan, as reported in his despatch No. 238, Most Secret, of 15th ultimo ..	84
156	„ „ ..	330	7,	Sheepskin coats for Turkish prisoners in Russia. Applications have been made to the Russian Minister for War and to the Chief of the Staff	84
157	To Sir H. Elliot ..	174A	7,	Incloses Count Beust's note proposing that the Congress shall meet at Berlin	84
158	„ „ ..	175 Confidential	7,	Austrian proposal that Congress should be held at Berlin. Conversation with Count Beust	84
159	Mr. Layard ..	271	Feb. 23,	Incloses report by M. Marinitch of a communication made to him by a deputation of Circassians, expressing wish to emigrate to some British possession	85
160	„ „ ..	274	25,	Incloses official explanation given to the public by the Porte relating to entry of British fleet into the Sea of Marmora and the occupation of San Stefano by the Russians ..	86
161	„ „ ..	276	25,	Incloses despatch from Mr. Longworth, respecting invasion of Thessaly by Greek bands	87

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
162	Mr. Layard ..	277	Feb. 26, 1868	Alleged execution of the Bulgarian named Dragoilo. Incloses letters from the Mutessarif of Varna and Consul Reade respecting	88
163	„ „ ..	278	26,	Demand for expulsion of Mahommedans from Bulgaria. Russian denial in "Agence Russe." There is evidence that the demand was made	90
164	„ „ ..	27A Most Conf.	26,	Constant visits of M. Onou, the Russian Dragoman, to the Porte. He is supposed to have in view the conclusion of a secret alliance between Russia and the Porte	91
165	„ „ ..	284	27,	Despatch from Vice-Consul Brophy respecting the massacres committed by Circassians at Roum Yenikeui	92
166	„ „ ..	285	27,	Despatch from Consul Reade reporting advance of Russians beyond the line laid down by the Armistice; and despatches from Vice-Consul Stokes reporting state of affairs at Sulina	95
167	„ „ ..	286	27,	Incloses despatches from Vice-Consul Blakeney respecting an engagement between the Turks and the Greek insurgents, and from Acting Consul Barker respecting outrages at Pristina	97
168	„ „ ..	287 Confidential	27,	Incloses Memorandum as to alleged execution of Poles by Russians	99
169	„ „ ..	290	27,	Despatch from Vice-Consul Brophy reporting the excesses committed by Bulgarians near Bourgas	100
170	„ „ ..	292	27,	Despatch from Mr. Longworth respecting state of affairs in Thessaly	104
171	Mr. Wyndham ..	132	25,	Withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkish territory. M. Delyanni has been informed of the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at	106
172	„ „ ..	134 Confidential	26,	Regret of Italian Government at reports received as to the late policy of the Greek Government	106
173	„ „ ..	135	26,	Continued enrolment of Greek irregular bands. Remonstrance made to M. Delyanni against	106
174	„ „ ..	136	26,	Complaints of Turkish Minister that Greek regular soldiers were fighting with insurgents. Suggestion of Mr. Wyndham to M. Delyanni of withdrawing Greek army from Thebes	107
175	„ „ ..	137 Confidential	26,	Continued enrolment of Greek irregular bands. Owing to public feeling it is doubtful whether Greek Government will be able to prevent	107
176	„ „ ..	138 Confidential	27,	200 Greek soldiers and a Greek officer having deserted, and entered Thessaly, the Greek Government have withdrawn the troops stationed on the frontier of Epirus, and dismissed the officer. Conversation with Photiades Bey	107
177	„ „ ..	139	28,	Reported extension of Bulgaria to the Ægean Sea. Painful impression produced at Athens	108
178	„ „ ..	140	28,	M. Tricoupi about to leave on a special mission for England. Conversation with him..	108
179	„ „ ..	141 Confidential	28,	M. Tricoupi not going to start for London immediately, owing to objections having been raised	109
180	Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha	Telegraphic	Mar. 7,	Treaty will be communicated as soon as possible. Indemnity is 40,000,000*l.* and not 12,000,000*l.* No mention of Egyptian Tribute	109
181	Admiralty	Secret	7,	Despatch from Rear-Admiral Commerell reporting on state of affairs at Gallipoli ..	109
182	„	Secret	8,	Extract of a letter from Rear-Admiral Commerell reporting his proceedings at Gallipoli	110
183	Mr. Adams ..	1 Telegraphic	8,	French Government will accept Congress at Berlin, provided that only questions arising directly from the war are discussed ..	111
184	Mr. Layard ..	300 Telegraphic	8,	Raouf Pasha appointed Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh for exchange of ratifications	111
185	„ „ ..	301 Telegraphic	8,	Intrigues are going on to produce risings in Syria and Asia Minor	111

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
186	Mr. Taylour Thomson	Telegraphic	Mar. 8, 1878	Turco-Persian Boundary Question. Is informed that communications have been sent, by Persian Government, to London and St. Petersburgh, with a view of having it submitted to the Congress	111
187	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	8,	Italian Government will accept Congress at Berlin	112
188	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	8,	Her Majesty's Government have agreed to Berlin for the Congress. The whole Treaty of Peace must be laid before the Congress .	112
188*	To Mr. Layard ..	344 Confidential	8,	Reports given to Porte by Musurus Pasha of his conversations with Lord Derby are inaccurate	112*
189	To Mr. Adams ..	182	8,	Communication by M. d'Harcourt. French Government will accept Congress at Berlin, provided that discussion is confined to questions arising directly out of the war ..	112
190	To Sir A. Paget ..	137	8,	Affairs of Egypt and Tunis. Italian Government desire to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government in regard to ..	112
191	To Sir H. Elliot ..	177	8,	Her Majesty's Government have accepted Berlin for Conference. Her Majesty's Government require whole Treaty of Peace to be laid before the Congress. Austrian Government asked what bases they require to be laid down for discussion	113
192	To Consul Sandwith..	7 Political	8,	Approves his proceedings with a view to bring about the cessation of hostilities in Crete	113
193	Consul Sandwith ..	22 Political	Feb. 20,	Memorial from Cretan General Assembly ..	113
194	Consul-General Fawcett	30 Consular	28,	All English employés at Tophana are to be dismissed. Bad sanitary condition of Constantinople	119
195	Sir E. Thornton ..	50 Confidential	25,	Report in "Observer" that Russia had suggested that the United States should be represented in Congress. No truth in the report	120
196	Consul Sir C. Sebright	12 Political	28,	Proceedings of the insurgents who landed on coast of Epirus on the 23rd. State of affairs in Epirus	121
197	„ „ ..	13 Political	Mar. 4,	State of affairs in Epirus. Return of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" from Avlona with 180 fugitives	122
198	Mr. Adams ..	217	8,	French Government will accept Berlin for the Congress, provided that the questions discussed therein emanate directly from the war	124
199	„ „ ..	218 Most Conf.	8,	Conversation with M. Waddington. Unpleasant for France to participate in Congress at Berlin, but M. Waddington will take the responsibility of accepting it there on himself. Peace necessary for France ..	124
200	„ „ ..	221	8,	Questions which France is not prepared to discuss in Congress	124
201	Consul Kirby Green..	Telegraphic	9,	Montenegrins refuse navigation of Boyana to Turks	125
202	Sir A. Paget ..	6 Telegraphic	9,	Ministerial crisis expected at Rome. It is not supposed that the Italian foreign policy will change	125
203	To Mr. Taylour Thomson	Telegraphic Confidential	9,	It is understood that "Kotur" is dealt with in the Russo-Turkish Treaty. No authentic information	125
204	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	9,	Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that Greece is entitled to be represented in Congress	125
205	To Embassies, excepting Constantinople	Telegraphic	9,	Greek Government entitled to be represented in Congress in opinion of Her Majesty's Government	126
206	To Sir H. Elliot ..	178 Confidential	9,	Conversation with Count Beust. Count Andrassy confident that England and Austria will be able to carry out their joint programme at Berlin. Count Beust has been asked for further details as to Count Andrassy's policy	126
207	„ „ ..	180	9,	The reply of Her Majesty's Government to Austrian proposal that the Congress should meet at Berlin. Sending copy of ..	126

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
208	To Lord A. Loftus ..	211	Mar. 9, 1878	Greek Government entitled to be represented at the Congress in opinion of Her Majesty's Government. To inform Russian Government	127
209	To Mr. Layard ..	345	9,	Incloses Austrian proposal that the Congress should meet at Berlin, and the reply of Her Majesty's Government	127
210	" " ..	347	9,	Incloses correspondence relating to the wish of the Greek Government to be represented in the Congress	127
211	To Mr. Taylour Thomson	19	9,	It is understood that question of Kotur is dealt with in the Russo-Turkish Treaty. No authentic information	127
212	To M. Gennadius ..	..	9,	Greek Government entitled to be represented in the Congress in opinion of Her Majesty's Government	128
213	To Count Beust ..	..	9,	Reply of Her Majesty's Government to Austrian proposal that the Conference should meet at Berlin	128
214	To Sir H. Elliot ..	62 Telegraphic	9,	Austrian Vote of Credit being considered by the Delegations. Occupation of Bosnia by Austria probably not intended	128
215	Sir H. Elliot ..	63 Telegraphic	9,	Prince of Saxony the only foreign Prince announced as coming to attend the Archduke's funeral	128
216	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	9,	Telegram from Sir C. Sebright. Insurrection suppressed. Many destitute fugitives ..	129
217	Consul Sir C. Sebright	Telegraphic	10,	Insurrection suppressed. Many destitute fugitives	129
218	Lord Odo Russell ..	9 Telegraphic	10,	German Government have informed Greek Government that Congrers will be formed exclusively of the Signatory Powers of Treaty of Paris	129
219	" " ..	10 Telegraphic	10,	M. Waddington will attend the Congress for the French Government in person ..	129
220	Sir A. Paget ..	7 Telegraphic	10,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Italian Foreign Minister cannot make any engagement respecting	129
221	Lord A. Loftus ..	57 Telegraphic	10,	Conversation with Emperor. He would much regret rupture with England	130
222	Consul-General White	24 Political	Feb. 5,	Reported offer of Widdin to Roumania by General Ignatieff. Indignation of Servians.	130
223	" " ..	26 Political	6,	Reports of large concentration of Russian forces in Roumania	130
224	" " ..	28 Political	10,	Reported advance of Servians in direction of Sjenica. Nothing known at Belgrade respecting	130
225	" " ..	29 Political	10,	Negotiations between Turkey and Russia. Excitement of Servians as to clauses which may affect future position of Servia ..	131
226	" " ..	34 Political	Mar. 1,	Servian Government intend sending M. Ristich to the Conference	131
227	" " ..	35 Political	5,	Interview with the Prince of Servia. Satisfaction of his Highness at results of the war	131
228	" " ..	36 Political	5,	Supposed anti-Russian feeling in Servia not correct	132
229	Acting Consul Freeman	6 Consular	1,	Report from Vice-Consul Cooper on town and defences of Novi-Bazar	132
230	" " ..	7 Political	Feb. 11,	Violent article against Servia published in the "Bosna." Editor of paper reprimanded, and further circulation of the number containing the article stopped	134
231	" " ..	8 Political	13,	State of affairs near Novi-Bazar and on the Montenegrin frontier	134
232	Sir H. Elliot ..	152	25,	Telegram from St. Petersburgh, published in the Vienna papers, suggests Berlin for the Conference. Nothing known at Vienna respecting	135
233	" " ..	154	26,	Suspected secret Treaty between Russia and Turkey. Austrian Government have heard nothing respecting. Their uneasiness on the subject	135
234	" " ..	156	26,	The Delegations will meet about the 7th March	135
235	" " ..	158 Secret	26,	Is told that private correspondence between the three Emperors, alluded to by Lord Odo Russell, is of rare occurrence ..	136
236	" " ..	161 Confidential	26,	Conversation between Count Andrassy and Turkish Ambassador. Count Andrassy insisted that Porte ought not to accept the ruinous conditions of peace	136

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
237	Sir H. Elliot ..	163	Feb. 27, 1878	Report concerning the Russian concentration on the Transylvanian frontier, and the dispatch of Honveds to the point menaced, untrue	137
238	" " ..	182 Confidential	Mar. 5,	Conversation with Count Andrassy. If England and Austria hold firm together he is confident of preserving peace	137
239	" " ..	184	5,	Sir H. Elliot's views respecting the new Bulgarian Principality	138
240	" " ..	185 Very Conf.	5,	Conversation with Emperor of Austria. Certain provisions in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey which he would not be inclined to admit	139
241	" " ..	186	5,	Count Andrassy not likely to object to an outlet of the sea being given to Montenegro	140
242	" " ..	187 Confidential	8,	It is believed that occupation of Bosnia by Austria is ultimately intended. Count Andrassy is becoming unpopular ..	140
243	Sir A. Paget ..	176 Most Conf.	2,	Conversation with M. Depretis. In the event of an Anglo-Austrian alliance Italy might be induced to join it	140
244	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	26 Political Confidential	Feb. 22,	Roumanian Government desires to be represented at the Congress	142
245	Acting Consul Barker .	10 Political	27,	Excesses of Bashi-Bazouks at Pristina. Engagement between Turks and insurgents near Volo	142
246	Acting Consul Freeman	10 Political	Mar. 1,	Despatch from Vice-Consul Cooper relative to affairs near Pristina	144
247	Consul-General Eldridge	14 Political	Feb. 28,	Arrival of Circassians at Beyrout; no disturbances. Reports of alarm imaginary ..	145
248	Lord Odo Russell ...	164 Secret	Mar. 5,	Rumour that the Austrian Government wish to hold the Conference at Berlin instead of Baden	146
249	" " ..	166 Confidential	5,	Prince Bismarck will not object to the Conference being held at Berlin	147
250	" " ..	168	6,	Austrian and Russian Governments have agreed to Berlin for Conference, as preferable to Baden. Prince Bismarck has assented, provided the other Powers agree	147
251	" " ..	170 Secret	6,	Rumours respecting the Conference. Conversation with Her von Bülow	147
252	" " ..	173 Secret	6,	German Emperor has been endeavouring to improve the relations between the Russian and Austrian Governments	147
253	" " ..	176 Confidential	7,	Emperor of Germany has consented to Berlin as place of meeting for the Conference ..	148
254	" " ..	181 Secret	9,	Views with which Prince Bismarck will assume Presidency of the Congress ..	148
255	Consul Sir C. Sebright	14 Political	7,	State of affairs at Corfu. Insurrection in Epirus	149
256	Mr. Adams ..	224	10,	Reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Austrian proposal that the Congress should meet at Berlin, communicated to M. Waddington yesterday	149
257	" " ..	225 Very Conf.	10,	Prince Gortchakow supposed to be hesitating with respect to the guarantee demanded by France before participating in the Congress	150
258	" " ..	226	10,	Proposed admission of Greece to the Congress. M. Waddington informed of	150
259	Admiralty	..	9,	Letter from the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," relative to state of affairs at Sulina	150
260	" ..	..	11,	Proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" at Avlona, Tre-Scagli, and Santa Quaranta	
261	M. Gennadius ..	..	10,	Admission of Greece to the Conference. Acknowledging reply of Her Majesty's Government respecting	151
262	Memorandum communicated by Count Beust	Private and Confidential	11,	Substance of a telegram from Count Andrassy. Respecting questions to be dealt with in Congress	152
263	Sir A. Paget ..	8 Telegraphic	10,	Depretis Ministry has resigned. Count Cairoli elected President of the Chamber of Deputies	153
264	Sir H. Elliot ..	65 Telegraphic	10,	Queen's message of condolence to the Emperor conveyed. Thanks of Emperor for her sympathy	153

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
265	Mr. Layard ..	302 Telegraphic	Mar. 11, 1878	Intended occupation of Bosnia by Austria. Count Zichy instructed to deny	153
266	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	11,	Admission of Greece to the Conference. Thanks of Greek Government to Her Majesty's Government	153
267	Lord Odo Russell ..	11 Telegraphic Secret	11,	If Her Majesty's Government decline entering the Conference, owing to the refusal of Russia to discuss the whole Treaty of San Stefano, Germany will withdraw also ..	153
268	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	11,	To ask Porte if Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" may remove the destitute women and children from the coast opposite Corfu ..	154
269	To Sir H. Elliot ..	134 Most Conf.	11,	Negotiations for the Congress. Count Andrassy's views. Ready to exchange views with Her Majesty's Government respecting	154
270	To Mr. Layard ..	349	11,	To ask Porte if Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" may remove the fugitives from the coast opposite Corfu	154
271	To Sir A. Paget ..	141	11,	Change of Ministry at Rome. There will be no change in Italian foreign policy ..	155
272	To Mr. Wyndham ..	44	11,	Continued enrolment of irregular bands in Greece. Approves language held to M. Delyanni respecting	155
273	Vice-Consul Lowe ..	4	Feb. 19,	Respecting the seizure of the Turkish ship "Panaghia Magassiotisa" for breach of blockade	155
274	Lord A. Loftus ..	58 Telegraphic Confidential	..	Language of the Emperor to the Roumanian Agent and to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh	156
275	„ „ ..	59 Telegraphic	Mar. 11,	Submission of the whole Treaty to the Congress. Prince Gortchakow will not agree to	156
276	„ „ ..	60 Telegraphic	12,	Ratifications of the Treaty will take place before the meeting of the Congress ..	156
277	„ „ ..	61 Telegraphic	12,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Prince Gortchakow cannot assent to	156
278	Lord Odo Russell ..	12 Telegraphic Secret	12,	Austrian Government said to be seriously contemplating occupation of Bosnia ..	156
279	Sir H. Elliot ..	66 Telegraphic	12,	Austrian programme for the Conference. Count Andrassy will not express himself definitely respecting till the Delegations are closed ..	157
280	Mr. Layard ..	303 Telegraphic Secret	12,	Hobart Pasha will proceed at once to Greek waters. He will act with moderation ..	157
281	Mr. Adams ..	2 Telegraphic	12,	The French reservations. All the Powers have accepted except Italy, who will doubtless do so	157
282	Acting Consul Freeman	Telegraphic	12,	Mahommedan deputation has left Bosnia for Vienna, to advocate annexation to Austria ..	157
283	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	12,	The Congress. Her Majesty's Government must be clear on the points mentioned in the letter to Count Beust of the 9th instant, before entering	157
284	To Mr. Layard ..	351	12,	Deputation of Circassians. Approves answer returned to, through Mr. Dragoman Marinitch	158
285	„ „ ..	353	12,	Massacres committed by Circassians at Roum Yenikeui. Her Majesty's Government hope that those implicated in them have been promptly dealt with	158
286	To Lord A. Loftus ..	216	12,	Conditions of Her Majesty's Government as to the Congress. No answer from the Russian Government	158
287	To Sir H. Elliot ..	185	12,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Conversation with Count Beust respecting ..	158
288	„ „ ..	187	12,	The Congress. Her Majesty's Government must be clear as to the points mentioned in the letter to Count Beust of the 9th instant before entering	159
289	To Mr. Adams ..	198	12,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. French Government will agree to, leaving open the question of the manner in which that country shall be represented	159
290	To Admiralty ..	..	12,	Extract from despatch from Sir C. Sebright relating to the removal of fugitives from the Albanian coast by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid." Might not Commander Fitzgerald's action be approved?	159

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
291	To Count Beust ..	..	Mar. 12, 1878	Her Majesty's Government must be clear on the points mentioned in the letter to Count Beust of the 9th before entering Congress. Are they to expect a further answer on the subject?	159
292	Mr. Adams ..	233	12,	The French reservations. All the Powers have accepted them, except Italy, who will doubtless do so	160
293	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	Feb. 18 Mar. 29	The desertion of Greek soldiers on the frontier. Excuses for their aiding the insurgents ..	160
294	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	Mar. 12,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Thanks of the Greek Government to Her Majesty's Government	161
295	Sir H. Elliot ..	67 Telegraphic	12,	Desirable for him to know if the submission to the Congress of the whole Treaty is a *sine qua non* condition of Her Majesty's Government attending it	161
296	Mr. Layard ..	304 Telegraphic	12,	A short additional telegraph cable to complete the communication between Constantinople and Dardanelles required, according to Director-General of Telegraphs	161
297	Lord A. Loftus ..	62 Telegraphic	13,	The reply to Count Beust communicated to Prince Gortchakow to-day	162
298	Lord Odo Russell ..	13 Telegraphic Confidential	13,	The Congress. Prince Bismarck thinks it should be composed of the Signatory Powers only. Greek interests should, however, be considered	162
299	„ „ ..	14 Telegraphic	13,	Date for the Congress proposed by Count Andrassy is the 25th of March	162
300	„ „ ..	15 Telegraphic	13,	Subjects which France objects to discuss at the Congress, according to French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh	162
301	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	13,	Distressing accounts from Sir C. Sebright of excesses committed by Bashi-Bazouks on the coast opposite Corfu	162
302	Mr. Taylour Thomson	Telegraphic	13,	Conversation with Persian Minister. No communication has passed with Russia respecting Kotur. He dwelt on urgency of referring the Turco-Persian boundary question to the Congress	162
303	Mr. Scott	Telegraphic	13,	Prince Alexander of Hesse-Darmstadt has gone to Vienna at the request of the Emperor of Austria	163
304	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	13,	A Turkish squadron has been ordered to Greek waters	163
305	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	13,	Turco-Persian boundary question. To ask Sir A. Kemball to report as to how it stands. Repeats Mr. Thomson's telegram of 13th instant	163
306	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	13,	Every Article in the Treaty must be placed before Congress before Her Majesty's Government can enter it. Answer to No. 295.	163
307	To Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic Most Conf.	13,	Memorandum. Advisability of the countries interested in the Mediterranean and Black Seas coming to an understanding with regard to the defence of their interests in those waters. To sound Italian Government as to	163
308	To Sir H. Elliot ..	199	13,	Every Article in the Treaty must be placed before Congress before Her Majesty's Government can enter it. To inform Count Andrassy	164
309	To Sir A. Paget ..	142 Confidential	13,	Approves language held to M. Depretis, as reported in his despatch No. 176 of the 2nd instant	164
310	„ „ ..	144 Most Conf.	13,	Memorandum. Advisability of the countries interested in the Mediterranean and Black Seas coming to an understanding with regard to the defence of their interests in those waters. To sound Italian Government respecting	164
311	Consul Kirby Green ..	25 Political	2,	The Delimitation Commission. Their labours have been somewhat delayed	165
312	„ „ ..	26 Political	3,	Delimitation Commission. Its constitution, and the result of its first sitting	165
313	Sir H. Elliot ..	198	11,	Résumé of remarks made by Count Andrassy to the Delegations	166
314	Lord Odo Russell ..	192	11,	The meeting of the Conference at Berlin. The reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Austrian Government has been communicated to German Government ..	166

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
315	Sir H. Elliot ..	68 Telegraphic	Mar. 13, 1878	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Count Andrassy, though solicitous for the interests of Greece, desires that only the Signatory Powers should take part in the Congress ..	168
316	„ „ ..	69 Telegraphic	13,	The discussion of the whole Treaty at the Congress. Count Andrassy's reasons for disagreeing with Her Majesty's Government respecting	168
317	„ „ ..	70 Telegraphic	13,	M. Stourdza come on a mission from Prince of Roumania. To encourage resistance to Russia amongst Hungarian party ..	169
318	Lord Odo Russell ..	16 Telegraphic Confidential	14,	Congress. The submission of the Treaty is thought an exaggerated demand at Berlin and Paris	169
319	Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	14,	Arrival of General Ignatieff	169
319A	Count Andrassy to Count Beust	Telegraphic	14,	Congress. Thinks the Russian reply should suffice to remove the scruples of England ..	169
319B	Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff	Telegraphic	14,	The text of the Preliminary Treaty will be communicated when the ratifications are exchanged. Russia has nothing to conceal.	169
319C	To Lord Odo Russell .	141	14,	Prince Bismarck says he accepted the Congress at Berlin with reluctance, and that if England holds aloof it will be useless ..	170
320	To Sir H. Elliot ..	201	14,	Congress. Copy of No. 319A	170
321	To Sir C. Sebright ..	3	14,	Approves his declining to forward Turkish despatches, as stated in his No. 14 ..	170
322	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	29A	Feb. 25,	Panic among Armenians, arising from proceedings of Koords	170
323	„ „ ..	31	Mar. 1,	Erzeroum. Evacuation by Turkish troops. Russians entered on 23rd ultimo. There is to be a Turkish Civil Governor during Russian occupation	172
324	Consul Sandwith ..	26	2,	Crete. Reports of encounters between Christian insurgents and Government forces. Perfect order in the town	172
325	„ „ ..	27	2,	Bad results produced by the arming of the native Moslem population	173
326	„ „ ..	28	4,	Successful intervention of Vice-Consul Moazzo between Government and insurgents. Arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Foxhound" ..	174
327	Acting Consul Barker.	11	6,	Landing of Greek volunteers near Caterina. The insurrection in Thessaly. Despatches to Constantinople	174
328	Mr. Layard ..	328	8,	Boundaries of Armenia annexed by Russia, according to Article XIX of Treaty. Memorandum by Sir A. Kemball, and map .	176
329	„ „ ..	329	8,	Estimate of different populations in Thessaly, and report on outrages. From Mr. Longworth	177
330	Sir C. Sebright ..	15	11,	Descent on coast of Epirus. Further details respecting	179
331	„ „ ..	16	11,	*Procès-verbal* from the foreign Consuls to support the Ottoman Consul in calming the public feelings	180
332	„ „ ..	17	11,	Defeat and expulsion of raiders on the Acarnanian frontier. From Vice-Consul Onofrio	182
333	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	14,	Convicts released from prison at Janina, and probably from Arta and Prevesa, to fight insurgents	183
334	Prince Bismarck to Count Münster	Telegraphic	15,	Proposal of a Preliminary Conference of Second Plenipotentiaries	183
335	Sir A. Paget ..	10 Telegraphic	14,	Respecting Italy and Austria acting together in Congress, and generally respecting Eastern affairs. No Ministry yet formed ..	183
336	Mr. Layard ..	305 Telegraphic	14,	"Rapid" may remove destitutes from coast of Albania	184
337	Sir A. Paget ..	11 Telegraphic	15,	Satisfactory conversation with M. Cairoli. Greece and Congress. Italy and England..	184
338	Mr. Adams ..	Telegraphic	15,	Preliminary Conference proposed by Germany. France sees no objection to	184
339	Mr. Layard ..	306 Telegraphic Secret	15,	Grand Duke ordered to remain at San Stefano. Wish of Russian officers to return to Russia. Visit of Grand Duke to Sultan not settled ..	184
340	„ „ ..	307 Telegraphic Confidential	15,	Prince Hassan will probably return with Egyptian contingent to Egypt. He seems dissatisfied	184
341	Colonel Mansfield ..	Telegraphic Secret	15,	Report of sick in hospitals in Bulgaria. Bad state of cavalry and artillery horses ..	185

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
342	To Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic	Mar. 15, 1878	Proposed joint understanding respecting communications between Black Sea and the Mediterranean. See No. 335. Italy to be first consulted, before Austria and France ..	185
343	To Lord Odo Russell .	..	15,	Congress. Respecting question of Presidency. Conversation with Count Münster ..	185
344	Mr. Eldridge ..	15	3,	Arrival of refugees at Lattakia. Despatch to Constantinople	185
345	Mr. Layard ..	296 Secret	1,	Cession of Kotur to Persia, and some coast of the Caspian to Russia. To find out from Tehran truth of report respecting ..	186
346	„ „ ..	298 Confidential	3,	Charges against Greek Consul in Crete of abetting the insurrection, and intrigues of Greek agents with Musulman proprietors in Thessaly and Epirus. Two telegrams from the Porte	186
347	„ „ ..	299	4,	Peace Preliminaries signed yesterday. Not got a copy of the provisions. Supposed Russian modifications	187
348	„ „ ..	301	4,	Sad state of affairs at Schumla and surrounding district. Despatches from Consul Reade. He will bring to notice of Porte ..	188
349	„ „ ..	302 Confidential	4,	Congress and Persia. Suggestion of Mohsin Khan as to Turco-Persian frontier ..	190
350	„ „ ..	303	4,	Petition from Mussulmans at Philippopolis, requesting Her Majesty's Government to advocate the cause of Mahommedans in New Bulgaria at the Congress	191
351	„ „ ..	309 Confidential	5,	Porte says it is impossible that exchange of the ratifications can take place in fifteen days	192
352	„ „ ..	312 Secret	5,	Respecting Russian designs upon Beikos and Kavak	192
353	„ „ ..	313	6,	Respecting the Terms of Peace. Prime Minister is more satisfied with the situation of affairs	193
354	„ „ ..	314	6,	Bulgaria. Turkey is to have a military road across	193
355	„ „ ..	316 Confidential	6,	Respecting supposed Russian reduction of the war indemnity	194
356	„ „ ..	318	6,	Affairs at Salonica, Prevesa, and Gallipoli. Despatches from Consuls	194
357	„ „ ..	319	6,	Insurrection in Epirus and Crete. Memorandum from the Porte	196
358	„ „ ..	323 Secret	6,	Sultan wants British fleet to withdraw to Besika Bay, and the Russians might then leave also	197
359	Mr. Wyndham ..	143 Confidential	5,	M. Tricoupi's mission to London. Opposed by M. de Sabouroff, and advocated by the Austrian Minister	197
360	„ „ ..	145	6,	Information respecting return of volunteers to Patras. Greek troops at Caravassera. From Consul Wood	198
361	„ „ ..	147	7,	M. Tricoupi's mission. Turkish Minister in favour of	199
362	„ „ ..	148 Confidential	8,	Reasons for M. de Sabouroff inciting Greeks to invade Turkish territory last February ..	199
363	„ „ ..	149	8,	Return of deserters to their regiments. Insurrection in Epirus not successful at present	199
364	Porte to Musurus Pasha	..	6,	Bases of Peace. Copy of Protocol containing text of	200
365	Sir A. Paget ..	194 Most Conf.	11,	Respecting views of Italy on Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ..	200
366	„ „ ..	196 Confidential	11,	Greece and Congress. Conversation with M. Depretis	202
367	„ „ ..	197 Confidential	11,	Bosnia and Herzegovina. Count Tornielli suggests that Austria might occupy in case of war, in virtue of an Article similar to Article XCII of Treaty of Vienna ..	202
368	„ „ ..	198 Confidential	12,	Egyptian finance. Commission of Inquiry. Count Tornielli thinks question should come before the Congress	203
369	„ „ ..	199 Confidential	12,	Desirable that the Straits and Bosphorus be open to the navies of all Powers. Opinion of M. Depretis and Count Tornielli ..	203
370	„ „ ..	201	12,	Congress at Berlin. Lord Derby's reply to Austrian proposal. Communicated to M. Depretis	204
371	„ „ ..	202 Confidential	12,	Bosnia. Austrian denial of occupation. Has communicated to Count Tornielli ..	204

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
372	Mr. Adams ..	244	Mar. 15, 1878	Preliminary Conference. Proposed by Germany. M. Waddington sees no objection. .	204
373	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	15,	Christian emigration from Troustena ..	205
374	Sir H. Elliot ..	71 Telegraphic	16,	Resolution of the United Sub-Committees of the Hungarian Delegations	205
375	„ „ ..	72 Telegraphic	16,	Russia is endeavouring to obtain leave for exportation of twenty-four torpedoes from Austria	205
376	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	16,	Has asked Count Schouvaloff to try to procure a positive reply as to the British conditions respecting the Congress.	206
377	Sir A. Paget ..	13 Telegraphic	16,	Congress. Germany has suggested to Italy that preliminary discussions should be held.	206
378	„ „ ..	13 Telegraphic	16,	Congress. M. Depretis is anxious to know the views and policy of Her Majesty's Government	206
379	Mr. Adams ..	4 Telegraphic	16,	Conditions on which France will accept Preliminary Conference	206
380	„ „ ..	5 Telegraphic Confidential	16,	M. Waddington hopes Her Majesty's Government will accept German proposal for Preliminary Conference	207
381	To Lord Odo Russell .	Telegraphic Confidential	16,	Preliminary Conference. Has told Count Münster that Her Majesty's Government doubt the usefulness of.	207
382	To Count Schouvaloff.	..	16,	Asks for a positive reply from Prince Gortchakow as to the British conditions respecting the Congress	207
383	To Lord Odo Russell .	145	16,	Preliminary Conference. Extends No. 381 ..	208
384	To Sir H. Elliot ..	202	16,	Communication of Treaty to Powers. Copy of Prince Gortchakow's telegram	208
385	„ „ ..	203 Confidential	16,	Communication of Treaty to Powers. Conversation with Count Beust	208
386	To Lord A. Loftus ..	219	16,	Has asked Count Schouvaloff to try to procure a positive reply as to the British conditions respecting the Congress	209
387	Sir A. Paget ..	207	14,	Representation of Greece at the Congress. Note to Italian Government communicating opinion of Her Majesty's Government ..	209
388	Mr. Adams ..	248	16,	Roumanian arguments against cession of Roumanian Bessarabia to Russia	210
389	„ „ ..	251	16,	Preliminary Conference. Conditions on which French Government will accept	213
390	„ „ ..	252 Confidential	16,	M. Waddington hopes Her Majesty's Government will accept German proposal for Preliminary Conference	213
391	Mr. Layard ..	308 Telegraphic Secret	16,	Sultan determined to refuse demand of Grand Duke to send Russian troops to Buyukdéré.	213
392	„ „ ..	Telegraphic	16,	Russian naval officers at San Stefano. Russian sailors have passed through Adrianople ..	214
393	„ „ ..	310 Telegraphic	16,	Grand Duke still insists upon public visit to Sultan	214
394	Sir H. Elliot ..	73 Telegraphic	16,	Count Andrassy hopes that communication of Treaty to Powers will remove objections of Her Majesty's Government to the Congress	214
395	„ „ ..	74 Telegraphic	16,	Permission asked by Russia to export torpedoes from Fiume has been refused	214
396	Consul Ricketts ..	7	Jan. 27,	Return of General Franchini from Persia. Objects of his mission	215
397	„ „ ..	8	Feb. 5,	Military movements in Asia	215
398	Lord A. Loftus ..	291 Very Conf.	Mar. 4,	Conditions of Peace will not be known before arrival of General Ignatieff at St. Petersburgh	216
399	„ „ ..	293	4,	Prince Bismarck, at instance of Russia, has agreed to a Conference at Berlin, and will accept Presidency	216
400	„ „ ..	299	10,	Regret of the Emperor at England's distrust of Russia	217
401	„ „ ..	301	11,	Cession of Bessarabia to Russia. Cold reception of Prince Ghika by the Emperor ..	217
402	„ „ ..	303 Confidential	11,	Submission of Treaty to Congress. Russia will submit only the portions affecting European interests	218
403	„ „ ..	305 Confidential	12,	Preliminaries of Peace. Conversation with Prince Gortchakow respecting ratification and the Congress	218

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
404	Lord A. Loftus ..	307	Mar. 13, 1878	Representation of Greece at Congress. Russian Government considers that Greece cannot form an integral part of the Congress	219
405	„ „ ..	309	13,	Congress at Berlin. Has communicated to Russian Government the correspondence with Count Beust	219
406	Acting Consul Freeman	11	5,	Massacre at Pristina. Reports from Vice-Consul Cooper	220
407	„ „	12	8,	Indifference in Bosnia at conclusion of peace. Growing inclination in favour of Austria ..	224
408	Lieut.-Col. Mansfield .	31 Confidential	6,	Roumania will probably adhere to the Russian alliance	225
409	Consul Watkins ..	12	6,	Expected arrival in Cyprus of refugees from Constantinople. Uneasiness and petition from inhabitants	226
410	Sir H. Elliot ..	194 Confidential	9,	Bosnia. Austrian objections to proposed scheme for	227
411	„ „ ..	199 Confidential	11,	Uneasiness of French Government at the chance of Great Britain acquiring Egypt ..	228
412	„ „ ..	208	13,	Prince Alexander of Battenberg is the intended future Prince of Bulgaria	228
413	„ „ ..	209	14,	Submission of Treaty to Congress. Conversations with Count Andrassy and Baron Calice	228
414	„ „ ..	210	14,	Cession of Bessarabia to Russia. Conversation with M. Stourza and M. Jon Ghika ..	229
415	„ „ ..	211	14,	Bosnia. Austrian Government profess to know nothing of deputation coming to ask for annexation to Austria	230
416	„ „ ..	213	15,	Congress. Invitation not yet sent to the Porte	230
417	„ „ ..	215	15,	Military Report by Major Gonne	231
418	Lord Odo Russell ..	418	10,	Representation of Greece at Congress. German Government have replied that Congress is to be composed only of Signatory Powers of 1856	232
419	„ „ ..	189	10,	Congress at Berlin. M. Waddington will attend in person	232
420	„ „ ..	191 Secret	11,	Germany would not consent to a Congress without England	233
421	„ „ ..	195 Secret	12,	Occupation of Bosnia contemplated by Austria	233
422	„ „ ..	197	13,	Roumanian Agent has arrived at Berlin ..	233
423	„ „ ..	199 Confidential	13,	Prince Bismarck opposed to the representation of Greece at a Conference	233
424	„ „ ..	201	13,	Prince Bismarck has no objection to Congress meeting on the 25th March	234
425	„ „ ..	203 Confidential	13,	French Government object to discussion respecting Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Places	234
426	„ „ ..	204 Secret	13,	Conversation with Prince Bismarck respecting the Congress	234
427	„ „ ..	206 Confidential	14,	Submission of whole Treaty to Congress is looked upon as an exaggerated demand ..	235
428	Mr. Scott	18 Confidential	13,	Prince of Hesse's journey to Vienna. Real reasons for	235
429	Sir C. Schright ..	18	14,	Affairs at Santa Quaranta. His visit there ..	235
430	Mr. Adams ..	256 Confidential	17,	Preliminary Conference. Has informed M. Waddington of the views of Her Majesty's Government	237
431	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	9,	Protest of insurrectionary leaders addressed to foreign Consuls at Volo	237
432	„ „ ..	..	9,	Asks for an addition to be made to Lord Derby's speech respecting the Greek invasion of Thessaly	238
433	Count Beust ..	Memo. Private and Confidential	16,	Congress. Cannot enter into details of policy at present. Would countenance upholding Greco-Albanian interests	239
434	Mr. Layard ..	311 Telegraphic	17,	Report that Raouf Pasha has signed an offensive and defensive Treaty	239
435	„ „ ..	312 Telegraphic	17,	Captain Hall's report on ships at Buyukdéré..	239
436	Lord A. Loftus ..	64 Telegraphic	17,	Prince Gortchakow says the Treaty shall be textually communicated, and each Power shall have freedom of "appreciation and action"	240
437	„ „ ..	65 Telegraphic	18,	Ratification of Treaty. Raouf Pasha has not yet called upon him	240

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
438	Lord A. Loftus ..	66 Telegraphic	Mar. 18, 1878	Condition of Russian army. Typhus prevalent. Want of officers	240
439	Mr. Layard ..	313 Telegraphic	18,	Arrival of Russian sailors at San Stefano ..	240
440	Sir H. Elliot ..	76 Telegraphic	18,	Porte invited to attend Congress	241
441	To Lord Odo Russell .	Telegraphic	18,	Is Austria really acting in concert with Russia and Germany?	241
442	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	18,	Any objection to Colonel Wellesley returning to his post?	241
443	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	18,	Is it true that criminals have been released to fight against insurgents?	241
444	To Lord Odo Russell .	147	18,	Is Austria allied to Russia and Germany? Extends No. 441	241
445	Vice-Consul Jago ..	2	4,	Immigration of Circassians from Bulgaria into Syria	242
446	,, ,, ..	3	4,	Arrival of new Governor-General	242
447	Mr. Stanley ..	17	14,	Russian Governor-General of Bulgaria ..	243
448	Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff	Telegraphic	16,	Only the Signatory Powers should be represented in the Congress..	243
449	Count Schouvaloff ..	..	19,	Treaty shall be textually communicated, and each Power shall have freedom of appreciation and action	243
450	Sir H. Elliot ..	75 Telegraphic	18,	Freedom of discussion in the Congress. Prince Gortchakow's language to Austrian Ambassador	244
451	Sir A. Paget ..	14 Telegraphic	18,	Preliminary Conference. M. Depretis' opinion	244
452	Lord A. Loftus ..	67 Telegraphic	19,	Colonel Wellesley should defer his return ..	244
453	,, ,, ..	68 Telegraphic	19,	Russian military preparations	244
454	,, ,, ..	69 Telegraphic	19,	Coolness of Raouf Pasha towards him. ..	245
455	,, ,, ..	70 Telegraphic Confidential	19,	No secret Treaty has been signed. Turkish indemnity not diminished by the Emperor..	245
456	Mr. Layard ..	314 Telegraphic	18,	Occupation of Buyukdéré by Russians. Grand Duke Nicholas still insists upon. Refusal of Porte	245
457	,, ,, ..	316 Telegraphic	19,	Conduct of Raouf Pasha towards Lord A. Loftus. Regret of Porte at	245
458	Lord Odo Russell ..	19 Telegraphic Secret	19,	Count Andrassy supposed to be acting with Prince Bismarck and Prince Gortchakow as to the Congress and its results ..	246
459	Mr. Adams ..	6 Telegraphic	19,	Supposed offensive and defensive Treaty between Turkey and Russia. French Government have no information of	246
460	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	19,	Sir A. Kemball. Unless required at Constantinople he should return home at once ..	246
461	To Sir H. Elliot ..	204 Confidential	19,	Line of policy to be adopted by Austria at the Congress. Transmits Memorandum communicated by Count Beust	246
462	To Consul Sandwith..	9 Political	19,	Approves the sanction given to Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo to intervene between the authorities and the insurgents in Crete with a view to revictual the garrison at Vamos ..	246
463	Sir A. Paget ..	210 Most Conf.	15,	Desire of Her Majesty's Government to come to an understanding with Italian Government on the Eastern question. Conversation with M. Depretis respecting ..	247
464	,, ,, ..	213 Confidential	16,	Conversation with M. Cairoli respecting the proposed Congress and the representation of Greece thereat	248
465	,, ,, ..	215 Confidential	16,	Proposed preliminary discussions on the conditions on which the Congress should meet. Conversation with M. Depretis respecting	249
466	,, ,, ..	216 Confidential	16,	The policy Her Majesty's Government intend to follow at the Conference. Questioning of M. Depretis as to	249
467	Mr. Adams ..	263	19,	Supposed offensive and defensive Treaty between Russia and Turkey. French Government have heard nothing of	250
468	M. Gennadius ..	..	19,	Telegram from M. Delyanni. Release of criminals from the Larissa prisons with the view of sending them into Greece ..	250
469	Mr. Layard ..	315 Telegraphic	19,	Sanitary condition of the Russian army ..	250

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
470	Sir H. Elliot ..	77 Telegraphic	Mar. 20, 1878	The credit demanded by the Austrian Government unanimously voted by the Hungarian Delegations yesterday	250
471	To Her Majesty's Embassies	Telegraphic	20,	Communication from Count Schouvaloff. Russia reserves for herself, in common with the other Powers, liberty of appreciation and action at the Congress	251
472	Mr. Layard ..	318 Telegraphic	20,	Question of occupation of Buyukdéré submitted by Grand Duke Nicholas to the Emperor	251
473	,, ,, ..	319 Telegraphic	20,	Conduct of Raouf Pasha to Lord A. Loftus. Great regret of Sultan and Prime Minister at	251
474	Sir C. Sebright ..	Telegraphic	20,	Insurrection in Epirus suppressed. Action of Commander of "Rapid" disapproved by Admiral Hornby	251
475	To Embassies and Mr. Wyndham	Telegraphic	20,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Prince Gortchakow's opinion. Congress should only be composed of signatory Powers. Consultative Delegates should represent minor States..	251
476	To Sir A. Paget ..	153	20,	Views of Her Majesty Government as to representation of Greece at the Congress. Approves note addressed to M. Depretis respecting	252
477	To Mr. Layard ..	..	20,	Question of submission to the Congress of the Treaty between Russia and Turkey. Transmits letter from Count Schouvaloff respecting	252
478	To Lord A. Loftus ..	..	20,	Submission of the Treaty between Russia and Turkey to the Congress. Transmits letter from Count Schouvaloff respecting ..	252
479	Consul Kirby Green..	27 Political	6,	Delimination Commission. Turkish member of has returned to Scutari owing to conclusion of peace. Labours of Commission no longer required	252
480	,, ,, ..	29 Political	9,	Navigation of the Boyana prohibited to Turks by the Montenegrins in spite of the conclusion of peace	253
481	Consul Sandwith ..	29 Political	10,	State of affairs in Crete	253
482	,, ,, ..	30 Political	12,	Condition of affairs at Candia. Despatch from Vice-Consul Calocherinos respecting ..	254
483	,, ,, ..	31 Political	12,	Arrival of troops at Canea from Constantinople	255
484	Consul R. Reade ..	2 Political	13,	Kidnapping of Christian children by Circassians	255
485	Lord Odo Russell ..	213 Secret	17,	His reasons for thinking that the discussion of the Eastern question in the coming Congress is more likely to be formal than real..	255
486	Sir H. Elliot ..	78 Telegraphic	21,	Austrian Government have possessed the conditions of the Treaty for some days. They are confident that Russia will not insist on the extent proposed for Bulgaria . ..	257
487	Mr. Layard ..	319 Telegraphic	21,	Telegram from Vice-Consul at Janina: 114 criminals released there to serve as irregulars	257
488	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	21,	Thirty-five convicts have been released from the Larissa prisons, with the object of sending them to Greece	257
489	To Embassies ..	Telegraphic	21,	The whole Treaty must be laid before Congress before Her Majesty's Government enter it. Russian Government asked whether the communication of the Treaty *en entier* to the Powers shall be treated as placing the Treaty before the Congress	257
490	Lord A. Loftus ..	71 Telegraphic	21,	Chief Articles of the Treaty of Peace ..	258
491	To Lord A. Loftus ..	235	21,	The whole Treaty must be laid before the Congress before Her Majesty's Government enter it. Russian Government asked whether the communication of the Treaty *en entier* to the Powers shall be treated as placing the Treaty before the Congress ..	258
492	To Mr. Layard ..	371	21,	Kidnapping of Christian girls by Circassians. Approves his proposed remonstrances to Porte respecting	259
493	,, ,, ..	372	21,	Interview with Fahri Bey. Approves advice tendered to him	259

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
494	To Mr. Layard ..	374	Mar. 21, 1878	Alarm at Larnaca at impending arrival of 3,000 refugees from Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government hope that precautions will be taken to prevent disturbances in consequence of	259
495	" " ..	375	21,	Deputation of Musulman landholders. Approves language addressed to	259
496	" " ..	383	21,	Thirty-five convicts have been released from the Larissa prisons, with the object of sending them to Greece	260
497	" " ..	391	21,	Conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government will take part in the Congress. Note addressed to Count Schouvaloff respecting ..	260
498	To Mr Wyndham ..	48	21,	M. Tricoupi's proposed visit to London. Approves Mr. Wyndham's proceedings in the matter	260
499	To Sir C. Sebright ..	4 Political	21,	Defeat of Greek insurgents at Santi Quaranta. Approves his proceedings with a view to the removal of fugitives	260
500	" " ..	5 Political	21,	Deliberation of Consular meeting at Corfu, on threatened attack on the Turkish Consul-General. Approves his proceedings at ..	261
501	" " ..	6 Political	21,	Visit to the Commander of the Turkish ironclad off Butrinto. Approves his proceedings	265
502	Consul Watkins ..	1 Political	21,	Impending arrival of 3,000 refugees at Larnaca from Constantinople. Her Majesty's Government have expressed hope to the Porte that precautions will be taken to prevent disturbances in consequence of ..	265
503	To Count Schouvaloff ..	..	21,	Conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government will enter the Congress	261
504	Mr. Wyndham ..	151	9,	Telegram from Sir C. Sebright. Insurrection in territory opposite Corfu suppressed. Requests advice respecting permission to "Rapid" to embark fugitives	262
505	" " ..	152	10,	Conversation with M. Delyanni. His request that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" may embark fugitives at Santi Quaranta	262
506	" " ..	154	11,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Thanks of Greek Government to Her Majesty's Government	263
507	" " ..	155	12,	Admission of Greece to the Congress. Thanks of Greek Government to Her Majesty's Government	263
508	" " ..	156	12.	Further request of M. Delyanni that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" may remove the fugitives from the Albanian coast ..	264
509	" " ..	158	13,	Excesses of Bashi-Bazouks on the coast opposite Corfu. Telegram from Sir C. Sebright respecting	264
510	" " ..	159	14.	Departure of Turkish squadron for Greek waters. M. Delyanni informed of. Urgency of stopping the departure of irregular bands from Greece	261
511	" " ..	161	15.	Request of Her Majesty's Government to Porte for permission for the "Rapid" to remove fugitives. Consul Sebright informed of ..	261
512	Mr. Layard ..	331	11.	Conduct of Russians and Christians towards Mohammedans. Despatch from Vice-Consul Dussi respecting	265
513	" " ..	333	12.	Despatches from the Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Salonica, Larnaca, Prevesa, and Suliua, relating to affairs in their respective districts	268
514	" " ..	336	12.	Deplorable conduct of Russians in the towns occupied by them. Despatch from Vice-Consul Sankey respecting	268
515	" " ..	337	12.	Affairs at Philippopolis since its occupation by the Russians. Dr. Lyle Heath's report of ..	270
516	.. .. ..	343	15,	Observations on the Treaty of Peace ..	272
517	Lord A. Loftus ..	322	17,	Reply of Her Majesty's Government to the Austrian proposal that the Congress should meet at Berlin. *Aide Mémoire* from Prince Gortchakow respecting..	280
518	Colonel Maude ..	3 Political	10.	The Landwehr is being called out in Poland..	280

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
519	Mr. Adams ..	271 Most Conf.	Mar. 21, 1878	Attitude of England with regard to the Congress. Conversation with M. Waddington respecting	260
520	Admiralty	..	21,	Proceedings of Commander Hammond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch"	281
521	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	Telegraphic	22,	Sacking of villages near Volo by the Turks ..	281
522	Mr. Layard ..	320 Telegraphic	21.	Turkey has received no invitation to the Congress	283
523	" " ..	322 Telegraphic	22.	Sir A. Kemball leaves for England to-day ..	283
524	Lord A. Loftus ..	72 Telegraphic	22,	Full text of Treaty will be published to-day by English press. Remarks on the Treaty.	283
525	" " ..	73 Telegraphic	22,	No objection to resume charge of Turkish interests if Porte conveys a written request, with an expression of regret at Hamdi Pasha's conduct	283
526	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic Confidential	22,	It is hoped at Athens that Mr. Layard will prevail on the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople not to yield to Russian wishes respecting the Bulgarian Church	283
527	Sir H. Elliot ..	70 Telegraphic	22,	Loan of 60,000,000 florins voted by a majority of 89 to 20 by the Austrian Delegation ..	284
528	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	22,	He is to try and procure the maps of the Montenegrin, Servian, Bulgarian, and Armenian frontiers	284
529	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	22.	Lord A. Loftus will resume charge of Turkish interests. Inform Porte	284
530	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	22.	He is to resume charge of Turkish interests at once	28
531	To Sir A. Paget ..	163	22.	Conversation with Count Corti with reference to the proposed Congress and the representation of Greece thereat. Approves his language	284
532	To Lord Odo Russell .	171	22.	Question of Prince Bismarck ceding the presidency of the Congress to Prince Gortchakow. Conversation with Count Münster respecting	285
533	Vice-Consul Billotti..	33 Political	8.	Evacuation of Erzeroum by the Turks, and its subsequent occupation by the Russians ..	285
534	Mr. Layard ..	345	15.	An insurrection is being set on foot near Salonica	286
535	" " ..	346	15.	Removal of fugitive women and children from the Albanian coast by the "Rapid." Porte has no objection to	286
536	" " ..	347	15.	Return home of Mussulman fugitives. They can only return to towns in the occupation of the Russians	287
537	" " ..	349	15.	Alleged massacre at Djidun. Further detail from Consul Reade relating to	287
538	" " ..	350	15.	Despatches from Mr. Blunt, Vice-Consul Dussi, and Mr. Longworth, relating to affairs in their respective districts	289
539	Sir C. Sebright ..	19 Political	16.	Proceedings of the Patriotic Committee. Article in the Athens newspaper "Perseverance." Protest of Conference against the undisguised transfer of men and ammunition from Corfu to Epirus	292
540	M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius	..	Feb. 11.	Report of Greek Consul at Larissa respecting Turkish excesses	291
541	" " ..	..	Mar. 2.	Hostilities in Crete	287
542	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	22.	Engagement of Russian Navigation Company to take back troops from Constantinople, has been cancelled	292
543	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	22.	Turkish outrages near Mount Olympus. Could one of Her Majesty's ships remove fugitives?	292
544	Mr. Adams ..	8 Telegraphic	22	Treaty communicated to M. Waddington by Russian Ambassador	292
545	Mr. Layard ..	323 Telegraphic	22.	It is reported that Count Corti is to be the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs ..	292
546	Sir H. Elliot ..	80 Telegraphic	22.	Russia refuses to allow question of cession of Bessarabian Moldavia to be discussed in the Congress	292
547	Sir A. Paget ..	15 Telegraphic	22,	New Italian Cabinet may be almost considered formed if Count Corti accepts ..	292
548	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	23.	Fugitives near Mount Olympus. Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" will assist in removal of. To inform Porte	292

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
[illegible]	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	Mar. 23, 1878	Outrages near Olympus	300
550	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	23,	Ditto	300
551	" " ..	Telegraphic	23,	Fugitives near Mount Olympus. Substance of No. 548	300
552	To Mr. Layard ..	400	23,	Turkish excesses near Mount Olympus. Copy of No. 540	300
553	" " ..	402	23,	Fugitives. Extends No. 543	300
554	To Mr. Wyndham ..	62	23,	Ditto. Extends No. 551	301
555	Acting Consul Freeman	8 Consular	15,	Intended withdrawal of coinage from circulation in Bosnia	301
556	Mr. Vivian ..	72 Confidential	16,	Khedive is suspicious of a secret Intrigue on the part of Russia against Egypt ..	301
557	Mr. Layard ..	325 Telegraphic	24,	Fugitives near Olympus. Her Majesty's ship "Ruby" will proceed to assistance of ..	302
558	" " ..	326 Telegraphic	24,	Preparations for sending troops back to Russia have been suspended	302
559	Sir H. Elliot ..	82 Telegraphic	24,	Russian Terms of Peace. Views of Count Andrassy	302
560	" " ..	81 Telegraphic	24,	Submission of Treaty to Congress. Objections of Count Andrassy to views of Her Majesty's Government as to	303
561	Lord A. Loftus ..	74 Telegraphic	24,	Maps attached to Treaty will be communicated by Count Schouvaloff	303
562	Consul-General Stanley	Telegraphic	24,	Russian Government steamers are continually taking torpedoes to the Bosphorus ..	303
563	Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	24,	Has suggested that Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" should remain at the Piræus ..	303
564	Lord Odo Russell ..	215 Confidential	17,	Preliminary Conference is intended for the purpose of arranging the order of business ..	304
565	" " ..	217 Secret	19,	Congress and its results. Count Andrassy is acting in concert with Prince Bismarck and Prince Gortchakow	304
566	" " ..	221	23,	Preliminary Conference. Conversation with Herr von Bülow	304
567	Sir H. Elliot ..	229	20,	Vote of Credit for 60,000,000 fl. unanimously passed by the Hungarian Delegation ..	305
568	" " ..	230 Confidential	21,	Believes that the Austrian Government have for some days known the substance of the Russo-Turkish Treaty	305
569	" " ..	231 Confidential	21,	Has not been able to see Count Andrassy ..	306
570	" " ..	232 Confidential	21,	Baron Orczy states that Kiepert's ethnographical map was prepared to Russian order and at Russian cost	306
571	" " ..	233 Confidential	21,	Prince Bismarck advocates the acquisition of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria ..	306
572	" " ..	234	21,	Porte has not yet been regularly invited to the Congress	307
573	" " ..	236	21,	As to policy of using Greece as a barrier against further Slav encroachment in European Turkey	307
574	Admiralty ..	..	20,	State of affairs at the Piræus. Report from Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Wizard"	308
575	Count Andrassy to Count Beust	Very Conf.	..	Submission of whole Treaty to Congress. Austrian views respecting	308
576	Mr. Layard ..	327 Telegraphic	25,	Raouf Pasha has apologized for not having called upon Lord A. Loftus. Russian views as to simultaneous withdrawal ..	308
577	" " ..	328 Telegraphic	25,	Grand Duke visits the Sultan to-morrow ..	309
578	" " ..	329 Telegraphic Secret	25,	What concessions might be asked of Russia at the Conference. Prime Minister wants a private understanding with Her Majesty's Government respecting	309
579	Lord A. Loftus ..	76 Telegraphic	25,	Russia now trying to secure the neutrality of Austria	309
580	" " ..	76 Telegraphic	25,	General Ignatieff takes a letter from the Czar to the Emperor of Austria	309
581	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	25,	What boundary for Bulgaria does Count Andrassy insist upon; and what about Russian occupation?	310
582	" " ..	210	26,	Extends No. 581	310
583	Acting Consul Barker	12	14,	Insurrection in Thessaly and Epirus. Arrival of surgeons and stores	310
584	Sir C. Scbright ..	20 Political	21,	Acts of Rabbi-Bazouks at Santi Quaranta. Action of Greek Government in aiding insurgents	312
585	Count Andrassy to Count Beust	Telegraphic Private and Conf.	—	General Ignatieff's mission. Opinion respecting Congress	314
586	Admiralty ..	..	Mar. 25, 1878	Fugitives near Mount Olympus. "Devastation" cannot find any	314
587	Colonel Mansfield ..	Telegraphic Secret	20,	Report of large force to be concentrated at Kischineff	315
588	Sir A. Paget ..	16 Telegraphic	26,	Count Corti Minister for Foreign Affairs. His arrival	315
589	Mr. Layard ..	330 Telegraphic	26,	Typhus increases at Adrianople; also at Dédéagatch, Enos, and Sharkeui	315
590	Sir H. Elliot ..	83 Telegraphic	26,	General Ignatieff's mission. Austrian Government only informed of yesterday ..	316
591	" " ..	Telegraphic	26,	Movements of Prince Ghika and M. Stourdza. Russians going to occupy Moldavian Bessarabia at once. From Monson	315
592	Sir A. Paget ..	Telegraphic Very Conf.	26,	Count Corti thinks Russia did not wish for the Congress	315
593	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	26,	Bayazid. Cession included in Treaty communicated by Count Schouvaloff	316
594	To Sir H. Elliot ..	241 Confidential	26,	Count Andrassy's objections to English policy respecting the Congress. Copy of No. 585.	316
595	Vice-Consul Biliotti ..	34	15,	Batoum. State of affairs. No signs of an immediate evacuation	316
596	Acting Consul Barker ..	13	19,	Departure of Turkish troops for Mount Olympus. Events near Caterina	317
597	" " ..	14	20,	Conduct of irregulars in Thessaly and Mount Olympus. Desire of Mahommedan population at Drama to become British subjects ..	318
598	Lord Odo Russell ..	220 Confidential	25,	Prince Bismarck thinks a preliminary Conference indispensable	321
599	Mr. Adams ..	273	22,	Treaty of San Stefano communicated to French Government by Prince Orloff	321
600	" " ..	285 Confidential	26,	Congress. M. Waddington takes a more gloomy view of affairs now	321
601	Count Schouvaloff ..	..	26,	Congress. The Powers can raise what questions they please; but Russia will not discuss them, unless she chooses so to do ..	322
602	Count Andrassy to Count Beust	Telegraphic Private and Conf.	26,	Any compromise with Russia respecting Bulgaria or its occupation. Falsehood of such an idea	322
603	Sir H. Elliot ..	84 Telegraphic	27,	Russian spy left for Brindisi and Malta ..	322
604	To Lord A. Loftus ..	Telegraphic	27,	Russian reply respecting Congress. Substance of No. 601	323
605	Sir H. Elliot ..	85 Telegraphic	27,	Reply of Count Andrassy to queries in No. 581	323
606	Mr. Layard ..	338 Telegraphic	27,	Bayazid. See No. 593. Czar agreed with Raouf Pasha it should continue in possession of Turkey	323
607	To Mr. Layard ..	207	27,	Congress. Russian reply. Copy of No. 601 .	324
608	" " ..	209	27,	Girls kidnapped by Circassians in the Vilayet of the Danube. To approve Consul Reade, and bring to the notice of the Porte ..	324
609	To Sir H. Elliot ..	231 Confidential	27,	General Ignatieff's mission. Congress. Bulgaria. Copies of Nos. 585 and 602 ..	324
610	To Mr. Wyndham ..	54	27,	Entry of Greek army into Thessaly. As to correcting speech of Lord Derby ..	324
611	" " ..	55	27,	Convicts released at Larissa. Mr. Layard informed	325
612	" " ..	56	27,	Approves advice to Greek Government, to prevent departure of irregular bands ..	325
613	" " ..	57	27,	Enlistment of armed bands. Approves language to M. Delyanni	325
614	" " ..	58	27,	Insurgents at Santi Quaranta. Approves language to M. Delyanni	325
615	Mr. Wyndham ..	152 Confidential	19,	Greek Patriarch and Bulgarian Church. Russians endeavouring to bring about an understanding	326
616	" " ..	163	19,	Greece and Turkey. Explains language held by him. Chances of a settlement with the insurgents	326
617	" " ..	165	21,	Removal of fugitives in Her Majesty's ship "Rapid." Has informed Sir C. Scbright [illegible]	[illegible]
618	Mr. [illegible] ..	21	25,	Movements of Prince Alexander of Hesse, and Prince Alexander of Battenberg ..	327
619	Sir H. Elliot ..	86 Telegraphic	27,	General Ignatieff's arrival at Vienna. His conversation with Count Andrassy ..	328

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
620	Sir H. Elliot ..	87 Telegraphic	Mar. 27, 1878	Count Andrassy hopes England will not insist on any further declaration from Russia about questions to be discussed at the Congress	326
623	.. .. ..	90 Telegraphic	28.	Russian occupation of Bulgaria. Count Andrassy's suggestion as to guarantees ..	[illegible]
624	[illegible] ..	344 Secret Telegraphic	28.	Sultan asks if British ships could be removed from neighbourhood of Constantinople, if Russian troops were first removed ..	329
625	.. ..	345 Telegraphic Most Secret	28.	Grand Duke Nicholas asked the Sultan to make alliance with Russia	329
626	Sir A. Paget ..	17 Telegraphic Most Conf.	28.	Proposed understanding between Maritime Powers in the Mediterranean. Count Corti's answer	329
625	To Sir H. Elliot ..	Telegraphic	28.	Bulgaria. To undeceive Count Andrassy as to General Ignatieff's statement that England approves new state of things ..	330
626	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	28.	"Devastation." Found no signs of fugitives near Mount Olympus	330
627	To Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic	28.	Mr. Fawcett may arrange claim against Commander of "Torch"	330
628	To Her Majesty's Representatives abroad	Telegraphic	28.	Resignation of the Earl of Derby	330
629	To Mr. Layard ..	417	28.	Greeks in Bulgaria. To thank Greek gentlemen for their communication	330
630	To Mr. Wyndham ..	61	28.	Telegram from Captain of "Devastation" respecting fugitives	331
631	Consul Sandwith ..	32	15.	Arrival of Turkish troops in Crete ..	331
632	Mr. Layard ..	353	16.	Porte complains of encouragement given to insurgents by Italian and Austrian Consuls in Epirus and Thessaly	331
633	.. ..	354 Secret	16.	Sultan has refused to allow Russians to occupy Buyukdéré	331
634	.. ..	357 Secret	16.	Ill-conduct of Turkish Governors of Shumla. Steps taken by Prime Minister	333
635	.. ..	358	16.	Deplorable state of affairs at Philippopolis under Russo-Bulgarian administration ..	338
636	.. ..	359	17.	Russians refuse to recognize Consular authorities	345
637	.. .. ..	361 Confidential	18	Russian intrigues against Ahmed Vefyk Pasha	346
638	.. ..	363	18.	Congress. English reply to Count Beust has been communicated to the Porte ..	346
639	.. ..	365	18.	Armenian grievances. Conversation with Patriarch	346
640	.. ..	367	19.	Terms of armistice concealed from Sultan, whilst Russians advanced on Tchataldja. Refutes newspaper reports to the contrary .	[illegible]
641	.. ..	379	19	Occupation of Bulgaria limited to two years .	[illegible]
642	.. .. ..	22 Very Conf.	20.	Grand Duke's visit to Sultan. Discussion with the Porte respecting	349
643	.. ..	382	20.	Despatches from Varna, Bourgas, Salonica, and Prevesa	350
644	.. .. ..	385 Confidential	20.	Proposal for a new Armenian State ..	354
645	.. ..	384	20.	Affairs at Adrianople. Cruelty of Russians to Mussulmans	354
646	.. ..	387	21.	Feeling of Greeks living near Gallipoli towards the Russians and Turks. Report from Captain Fife	371
647	.. ..	391 Confidential	22.	Memorandum respecting present position of affairs between Russia and Turkey ..	[illegible]
648	.. ..	392	24.	Excesses committed by Turkish irregular troops in Thessaly	[illegible]
649	Consul Zohrab ..	.	20.	Cession of Batoum, Kars, and Bayazid to Russia. Remarks on	[illegible]
650	Mr. Adams ..	266 Secret	[illegible]	Conversation with M. Waddington on present crisis	[illegible]
651	Admiralty ..	..	29.	Telegram from Admiral Commerell. Return of "Ruby" from Volo	361
652	Mr. Layard ..	397 Telegraphic	29.	English subjects at Constantinople. What protection could be afforded them in the event of a Russian occupation of Constantinople?	364
653	Mr. Adams ..	11 Telegraphic Secret	29.	Appreciation of Treaty and attitude of England. Prince Orloff sounded M. Waddington yesterday as to	365

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
654	Sir A. Paget ..	18 Telegraphic	Mar. 29, 1878	Understanding of Italy with Her Majesty's Government relative to Mediterranean and Black Sea interests. Count Corti confirms answer given yesterday respecting ..	365
655	Lieut.-Colonel Mansfield	Telegraphic Confidential	29.	Field transport not to be dismissed. 10,000 additional carts are to be contracted for ..	365
656	To Consul Sandwith .	Telegraphic	29.	Recommencement of hostilities in Crete. Is report true?	365
657	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	29.	Her Majesty's ship "Devastation" will return to Besika Bay	365
658	.. .. ..	Telegraphic	29.	Telegram from Captain of "Devastation." Fugitives are to be well treated, but cannot be brought to Salonica	365
659	.. .. ..	68	29.	Ditto	366
660	Sir A. Paget ..	230	26.	Opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to representation of Greece at the Congress. Reply of M. Tornielli to note addressed to him respecting	366
661	.. .. ..	231	26.	Reply of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal that the Congress should meet at Berlin. Answer of M. Tornielli to note addressed to him respecting	366
662	.. .. ..	234	27.	Treaty of San Stefano. Copy of was delivered to M. Cairoli, on the 25th instant, by Russian Ambassador	367
663	.. .. ..	236	27.	Speech made by the President of the Council in the Chamber of Deputies, on the 26th instant	367
664	Mr. Adams ..	296 Secret	29.	Appreciation of Treaty and attitude of England. Prince Orloff sounded M. Waddington yesterday as to	370
665	Admiralty	..	29.	Telegram from Captain of Her Majesty's ship ship "Devastation." Homeless families have been allowed to go to Salonica. The "Devastation" is to return to Besika ..	370
666	Mr. Vivian ..	Telegraphic	29.	Uneasiness of Khedive at prolonged detention of Egyptian troops at Varna	370
667	.. .. ..	Telegraphic	30.	Defenceless state of Egypt. Viceroy anxious for return of troops	371
668	Sir H. Elliot ..	90 Telegraphic	30.	Austrian press approve attitude of England. Substance of article in "Fremden Blatt" ..	371
669	.. .. ..	91 Telegraphic	30.	The "Fremden Blatt" is considered semi-official	371
670	To Mr. Wyndham ..	Telegraphic	30.	"Ruby" has returned from Volo, as she could not assist fugitives	371
671	Sir H. Elliot ..	92 Telegraphic	30.	Russians are contracting at Fiume for additional torpedoes	371
672	Mr. Layard ..	399 Telegraphic Secret	30.	Russians are pressing surrender of Batoum on Porte. Porte wishes to delay it. Have Her Majesty's Government any instructions to give respecting?	372
673	Consul Sandwith ..	Telegraphic	30.	Fighting occurred on Wednesday, but ceased the same day	372
674	Captain Fife .	Telegraphic	30.	Russians expected at Kushan to-day. Telegraph to Kushan, and to Constantinople through Asia, interrupted	372
675	Mr. Layard ..	Telegraphic Secret	31.	Generals Skobeleff and Gourko are to make a dash on Gallipoli in the event of a war between England and Russia being imminent	372

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XXIII.

No. 1.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 239.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 16, 1878.

SAFVET PASHA has telegraphed to the Prime Minister that the Grand Duke Nicholas has communicated to him, through Count Ignatiew, a telegram that His Imperial Highness has received from the Emperor Alexander to the following effect:—

"Official information has been received from London that, acting on information received from the British Ambassador at Constantinople as to the situation of the Christians in that city, which, according to his account, is dangerous, the British Government has given orders to a part of its fleet to go to Constantinople for the defence of British subjects.

"It is therefore indispensable that you (the Grand Duke) should come to an understanding with the Ottoman Plenipotentiaries with respect to the entrance of our troops into Constantinople with the same object. It would be very desirable that the entry should be made in a friendly manner ('à l'amiable'), but if the Plenipotentiaries oppose it you must be ready to occupy Constantinople even by main force ('même de vive force')."

I beg to point out to your Lordship that I did not give Her Majesty's Government to understand that the Christians were in danger after the armistice had been concluded. The danger which I apprehended to them and others would have arisen in case the Russians, after defeating the Turkish armies, had entered the city as conquerors. It is rather the Mahommedans than the Christians who would require protection in case of the occupation by Russian troops of the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 2.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 240.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 17, 1878.

I LEARN, by the reports in the journals of the debates in Parliament, that your Lordship communicated to the House of Lords, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the House of Commons, on the 8th instant, my telegram of the 5th, informing your Lordship that, notwithstanding the Armistice, the Russians were pushing on towards Constantinople; that General Strogoff had compelled the Turkish troops to evacuate Silivria on the previous night, notwithstanding the protest of the Turkish Commander,

and had declared that, according to his orders, it was absolutely necessary that he should occupy Tchataldja on the following day (5th); I further stated that the Porte was in the greatest alarm, and could not understand the proceedings of the Russians, and had made representations on the subject to the Grand Duke Nicholas, pointing out at the same time that the Servians had destroyed Vranja and were marching on Uscup. I added that although five days had elapsed since the signature of the Armistice, it had not yet reached the Porte, which was kept in ignorance of its real terms, that the conduct of the Russians was inexplicable, and that treachery was suspected.

I may state that I communicated this information to your Lordship at the request of the Porte. As your Lordship rightly pointed out to the House of Lords, the interruption in direct telegraphic communication between Constantinople and the rest of Europe had delayed the transmission of my telegram, and subsequent telegrams which I sent to your Lordship on the 6th, had they reached your Lordship, would have fully explained my telegram of the 5th.

Count Schouvaloff, in consequence of the communication of my telegram of the 5th to Parliament, informed your Lordship that he had been instructed from St. Petersburgh to say, that orders had been given to the Russian military Commanders to cease hostilities along the whole line in Europe and in Asia, and that there was not a word of truth in the rumours that had reached your Lordship.

What those rumours were, Count Schouvaloff did not specify. But his Excellency's statement was sufficient to expose me to the grave charge in the House of Commons of having misled Her Majesty's Government by sending inaccurate reports.

Such having been the case I would venture to request your Lordship to publish, in justice to me, the following explanation, which is founded upon facts derived from the highest authority.

The Protocol of the Bases of Peace and the Convention of Armistice were signed, as your Lordship is aware, by the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Turkish Plenipotentiaries on the 31st ultimo. Server Pasha had kept the Porte fully informed as to the Bases of Peace, but not as regards the terms of the Armistice, concerning which his Government was in complete ignorance. He telegraphed to them that the Armistice had been signed, and that orders were to be given by both belligerents for the immediate suspension of hostilities. His Excellency led the Sultan and the Porte to believe that, as is usual in such cases, each belligerent was to retain the positions occupied by it at the time of the signature of the armistice. The Porte acted upon this supposition. The Russian outposts had only at that time occupied Tchorlu, about half way between Constantinople and Adrianople. It was, therefore, with the greatest surprise and alarm that the Turkish Ministers found that immediately after the signature of the Armistice the Russians commenced pushing onwards towards Constantinople with renewed and unwonted vigour, that the Russian General threatened to drive the Turkish troops out of Silivria by force, and that his orders were to occupy the important position of Tchataldja, on the following morning, the 5th instant. This date, as it will be seen, is important.

As Server Pasha had not informed the Porte that the lines of Constantinople were to be abandoned, and that Tchataldja was to be given up, it believed that the rapid advance of the enemy was in violation of the Armistice, and feared that, owing to some treachery, the Russians were actually marching on Constantinople. Hence their earnest appeal to me to telegraph on the subject to Her Majesty's Government.

The Protocol of the Bases of Peace and the Convention of Armistice were sent to Constantinople by a servant of Server Pasha's. I have received from the most trustworthy source, minute particulars of his proceedings. He did not leave Adrianople until the morning of the 2nd, although he could easily have done so on the previous day. He was only allowed to use the railway for a short distance; and was then compelled to perform the remainder of his journey on horseback. All manner of impediments appear to have been thrown in his way, and he did not reach the lines until the 5th, the very day, be it remembered, that General Strogoff had been peremptorily ordered to occupy Tchataldja. He arrived at Constantinople on the 6th, and it was only on that day that the Porte was made acquainted with the terms of the Armistice, and became aware, when it was too late to make any opposition, of the fact that it had to abandon the last defences of the capital.

I asked Server Pasha why it was that he did not inform the Sultan and the Porte that the Bujuk Tchekmedjé lines were to be abandoned. His Excellency excused himself by saying that the Convention of Armistice was too long to be communicated by telegraph and that he had sent the original. As if this were a sufficient reason

to keep from the Sultan so momentous a fact as the virtual surrender of his capital into the hands of his enemy.

I stated to your Lordship, in my telegram of the 5th, that there was reason to suspect treachery. That this suspicion was well founded, no one can now doubt, and that Server Pasha deliberately sacrificed the interests of his country to those of Russia we have now his own avowal, published in the columns of the "Daily News." The object in withholding the information from the Sultan was evident. I have reason to believe that His Majesty would have persisted to the last in defending the lines of Tchataldja, rather than abandon them without a struggle. Could His Majesty have supposed that by an armistice he was to give over to the Russians the greater part of his territories in Europe? Hard as the terms of the Bases of Peace may be, they are less disastrous in some respects to Turkey than those of an Armistice, which place the capital and almost all the fortresses and defences of the Empire in Europe at the mercy of Russia. The Sultan and the Porte were not to be allowed to learn them until after it was too late to object to them. Hence it was that General Strogoff, with his army, and Server Pasha's servant with the Armistice, arrived at the lines of Tchataldja on the same day. The Sultan had then to submit to his fate. I will venture to say that so flagrant an act of treachery could with difficult be found on record.

Your Lordship, I believe, expressed your surprise that no confirmation had been received by other Governments of my telegram; but, your Lordship added, that no telegrams of so late a date had reached them. This is easily explained. All the telegraphic lines to Europe were interrupted except that by Bombay, of which my colleagues would not, on account of the expense, and for other reasons, avail themselves. Count Zichy informs me that he did telegraph on the 5th, in the same sense as I had done; but his telegram having been sent by the Egyptian wire, was kept back until that line was in working order again.

As regards the charges made against me in Parliament for want of accuracy, and for not sending full and trustworthy information to Her Majesty's Government, I can reply with some confidence, that owing partly to the efficient manner in which this Embassy is served by the gentlemen connected with it, I am not behind any of my colleagues in receiving trustworthy and early information. I might perhaps venture to say that I may have been occasionally in advance of them. That sometimes I may send information to your Lordship which may prove subsequently in some respects inaccurate, will scarcely surprise anyone acquainted with the suburb of Pera, and of the elaborate and subtle processes that are required to extract the truth out of any one of its inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 3.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 241. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum made for me by a Greek gentleman who is just arrived from Adrianople and who is well acquainted with General Ignatieff, with whom he had an opportunity of conversing. There are matters referred to in it which are of interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Memorandum.

LES Russes tiennent des propos insolents envers l'Angleterre et se moquent de sa puissance. Ils sont ivres de gloire; on peut à peine leur parler. La ville d'Andrinople a souffert beaucoup de la présence de l'armée Russe. Chaque soir deux ou trois incendies éclatent par le fait de la négligence des soldats, qui allument leurs feux dans les chambres sur des planchers en bois. Si leur séjour va durer, la ville

d'Andrinople sera pillée et détruite de fond en comble. L'autorité des Consuls est réduite à néant. Il serait difficile de décrire la brutalité des soldats Russes. Un corps de 2,000 marins était attendu à Andrinople avec tout le matériel nécessaire pour immerger des torpilles partout et barrer les passages des Détroits. Les Russes sont décidés à occuper Constantinople en apprenant l'entrée de la flotte Anglaise. Ils sont résolus d'aller à Gallipoli avant même d'entrer à Constantinople.

Les Russes maltraitent les Grecs au profit des Bulgares. Ils encouragent par tous les moyens l'émigration des Musulmans et des Grecs, lesquels sont maltraités et pillés partout.

Les Russes ont préparé une requête très-adroitement rédigée, et se servent de tous les moyens pour le faire signer à tous les habitants Chrétiens. Cette requête porte qu'ils ne désirent pas continuer à vivre sous la domination Turque et qu'ils veulent être annexés aux Bulgares. Les Russes commettent toutes espèces d'abus et d'excès, et surtout ils exterminent le bétail. Toutes les fois que l'on leur adressent des plaintes ils répondent : "Prouvez, et nous punirons." Il existe un vol organisé entre les Bulgares et les Cosaques. Les Bulgares parcourent les villages non Bulgares et notent tous les signes distinctifs qui se trouvent sur le bétail, après quoi ils vont en faire la description à leurs complices, à savoir, les Cosaques et les Bulgares, lesquels se rendent aussitôt dans les dits villages et enlèvent le bétail en prétendant qu'il appartient aux Bulgares.

On évalue, de l'aveu même des Russes, à 400,000 les cadavres humains et les carcasses des animaux qui gisent à partir du versant sud des Balkans jusqu'à la mer. Sur la chaussée d'Andrinople (Issambol Yollou), non loin de cette ville, il y a de 2,000 à 3,000 corps humains non enterrés.

A juger de la conversation et des propos tenus par le Général, il est presque certain qu'il existe une entente parfaite entre l'Allemagne et la Russie. Lorsqu'il s'est agi de l'Autriche, le Général aurait répondu : "Croyez-vous que la Russie aurait poussé les choses aussi loin si elle ne savait pas d'avance à quoi s'en tenir au sujet de l'Autriche."

Quant à la Conférence, le Général a dit que ce serait un simple "endossement" pour exprimer l'idée qu'elle se trouverait dans la nécessité d'accepter ce qui aura été arrêté entre la Russie et la Turquie.

No. 4.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 242.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Reade, with respect to the Armistice recently concluded between Turkey and Russia. Your Lordship will not fail to perceive that the same thing took place in Bulgaria as in Thrace with regard to the advance of the Russians after the signature of the Armistice, and that the same misunderstandings appear to have occurred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, February* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that news of the Armistice was received here with a feeling of the most inexpressible relief by that part of the population which is not altogether prostrated by suffering and misery. As regards the rest, they have been reduced to such a state of utter insensibility that nothing could make any impression on them.

With respect to the carrying out of the Armistice, I have seen Prince Hassan, who said that, at the request of General Zimmerman, he had consented to send officers to take part in making out a neutral zone, but as he had not received detailed instructions from Constantinople he could only give them general instructions.

From the way in which he spoke to me he appeared desirous to avoid going into any details with me.

He said that the line from Bazardjik to Rasgrad was to be a straight one. I now

hear, however, from the director of the railway, that the Sheytanjik Station is in the occupation of the Russians, and consequently that, if they chose, they could completely cut off Shumla from all supplies.

It is very clear that, whilst the Russians were stating that the Armistice had been signed, and were requesting a demarcation of a neutral zone, they were rapidly advancing towards Shumla. The possession of the Sheytanjik Station proves this.

I cannot learn of any actual massacre having been committed by them, but that the Cossacks, with armed Bulgarians, have committed gross and unwarrantable acts of incendiarism and plunder on private property, in all the directions in which they have advanced, we have ample evidence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 5.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 243.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 18, 1878.

SULEIMAN Pasha, who by his incompetency and his jealously of others, if not from baser motives, has brought such incalculable evils upon his country, has been arrested, and is now confined in one of the forts at the Dardanelles. I am informed that he is to be brought to trial on a charge of losing more than one Turkish army, and of treasonable proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 6.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 244. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have received from Adossides Pasha, the present Christian Governor of the island of Crete. His Excellency, as your Lordship will perceive, writes in high terms of the conduct of Consul Sandwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 6.

M. Adossides to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *La Canée, le* 11 *Février*, 1878.

VEUILLEZ m'excuser, Excellence, si j'ai déféré de lui écrire jusqu'à ce jour. Ce n'est pas par négligence ni indifférence ; des occupations incessantes et des motifs indépendants de ma volonté ne m'ont point permis de remplir ce devoir ; j'espère être plus exact à l'avenir.

Relativement à la situation politique de l'île à mon arrivée ici, j'ai trouvé malheureusement le pays dans l'anarchie et la confusion. Avec le désir sincère de ramener le calme et la réconciliation et de donner une solution satisfaisante aux demandes qui forment l'objet de la mission que le Gouvernement a bien voulu me confier, je me suis rendu deux fois au village Fré, où se trouvent réunis les représentants des districts. Je regrette cependant que mes efforts n'ont point été couronnés de succès à l'heure qu'il est. Au lieu d'entrer dans les détails de la discussion concernant les modifications à introduire dans le Règlement Organique de l'île, la réunion à Fré a inopinément suscité la question d'une autonomie à accorder à l'île ; cette demande a été soumise à la Porte. Le public attend la décision du Gouvernement Impérial dans l'anxiété.

Je ne pourrais pas dissimuler que depuis le premier jour de mon arrivée en Crète, Mr. Sandwith n'a pas cessé de me prêter son concours, et de m'assister durant les

négociations avec la réunion de Fré; aussi je ne puis qu'exprimer ma vive reconnaissance de tout l'intérêt que ce fonctionnaire témoigne pour m'aider dans les circonstances difficiles où se trouve l'île.

En faisant des vœux pour la conservation de la précieuse santé de votre Excellence, agréez, &c.

(Signé) C. ADOSSIDES.

No. 7.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 247.)

Constantinople, February 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, and from the British Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, on the proceedings of the Russians in those districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, February 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here of General Ignatiew on the 10th instant, and of Safvet Pasha yesterday.

I hear from reliable sources that the Roumanian, Servian, and Montenegrin Commissioners at the head-quarters of the Grand Duke Nicholas are very much disappointed at the territorial arrangements embodied in the basis of the Treaty of Peace exacted from Turkey by Russia, and that they make no secret of their feelings of irritation at what they consider to be the inadequate compensation allotted to them for their sacrifices.

I understand that the Servian Commissioner, in the course of a conversation which he has had on the subject with General Ignatiew, remarked to his Excellency in reference to Nish, "C'est avec notre sang que nous l'avons acquis et ce n'est qu'avec notre sang que nous le rendrons."

I further learn that the Russian Commandant at Demotica lately called up the leading Christian inhabitants of that place and asked them if they were satisfied with Turkish rule. On their answering that they had no complaint to make he used very strong language, and ordered them to draw up a petition to the Grand Duke praying that the district of Demotica be not excluded from the new Bulgarian Principality. It is added that a document to that effect is being diligently circulated, and that every device is being used to get it numerously signed.

A petition of a similar kind is, I am informed, being prepared by M. Gueroff, formerly Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, for signature by the Christian inhabitants of Adrianople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Continuation of Consul Blunt's Journal.

Adrianople, February 1–12, 1878.

February 1.—TO-DAY a Greek subject, named Constantine Papayopulo, a worker in bronze by trade, suffered arbitrary and brutal treatment at the hands of the Russian military authorities, under the following circumstances: A Russian soldier asked the Greek to open for him a Martini-Henry cartridge which he wished to examine. Whilst the Greek was trying to do so the cartridge exploded and slightly scratched his own face and that of the Russian. The soldier thereupon brought the Greek before the Town Commandant and made out some unknown charge against him. The nature of this charge was not explained to the accused person, and without giving him an opportunity of saying anything for himself, he was at once ordered to strip. The Greek complied, thinking the object was to search him. No sooner had he done so, however, than he was seized by two soldiers, armed with cowhide whips, with which they delivered twenty-five blows on his bare body.

February 2.—A grand dinner of 150 covers was given this afternoon by the Grand Duke at the Government Konak to the principal officers of the army now here.

February 3.—The Russian troops continue to pillage the town, and especially the Turkish quarter.

A meeting was held to-day at Her Majesty's Consulate, at which the Austrian and French Consuls attended, at the request of the Greek Consul. M. Ghennadis urged the necessity of the Consular Body addressing a joint remonstrance to the Russian authorities relative to the case of the Hellenic subject who was beaten yesterday in presence of the Town Commandant. After some discussion it was agreed to adopt the proposal of the French Consul, namely, that M. Ghennadis should, in the first place, address a special complaint on the subject to M. de Nelidoff, and that the French Military Attaché, Colonel Gaillard, should at the same time use his good offices with the military authorities. Should no satisfaction be accorded within twenty-four hours the Consular Body would then draw up and send in a formal collective remonstrance.

In the evening I received notice, through an indirect source, of the arrival of Drs. Leslie and Neville, of the National Aid Society, Dr. Kirkpatrick, of the Red Crescent Society, and Mr. Bell, of the "Illustrated London News," as prisoners of war. (The circumstances of this case and its sequel are related in my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador of February 4.)

February 4.—At 9 A.M. a Russian Colonel, on the staff of General Stein, Provost Marshal-General, called at Her Majesty's Consulate and gave explanations about Dr. Leslie and party. Shortly afterwards all the four Englishmen came to the Consulate.

Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché, succeeded to-day in bringing about an arrangement between the Russian military authorities and the Greek Consul regarding the matter of the Hellenic subject. Through his representations the Town Commandant, Colonel Zelutonkine, called at the Greek Consulate and made the fullest apologies. At his urgent request M. Ghennadis consented to withdraw the letter of complaint which he had prepared, but had not yet sent in, and thus the matter has been allowed to drop.

Colonel Gaillard has kindly undertaken to use his good offices with the military authorities towards an amicable settlement of the question between Mr. Rosenberg and Prince Mirsky (mentioned under January 28th).

February 5.—I accompanied Drs. Leslie, Neville, and Kirkpatrick, and Mr. Bell to the railway station at Karagatch. Also with them was Mr. Schuyer, correspondent of the "Standard," lately with the Tur' sh army. I booked all these gentlemen for Constantinople.

By the same train, which left about noon, a Colonel and a Captain on the Grand Duke's Staff, proceeded to the capital on their way to Montenegro, where they will confer with the Prince on the subject of the armistice.

February 6.—Mr. F. Villiers, artist of the "Graphic," called at the Consulate. He states that he arrived yesterday evening from Shipka, where he had heard of the brutal treatment which Dr. Leslie and party had suffered at the hands of the Russians.

General Stein, Provost Marshal General, called at Her Majesty's Consulate, and informed me that a train would be ready at 10 A.M. on the 8th instant, to convey to Constantinople the detachment of Turkish regular troops, who were left here for the protection of the Foreign Consulates and subjects.

Later in the day, the Consular Body met by appointment at Her Majesty's Consulate, and after settling about the apportionment of the expenses incurred for the maintenance of these troops, prepared a collective declaration testifying to their discipline and good conduct, as well as to the valuable assistance in preserving order which their presence here has afforded. It was also agreed that the Austrian Consul and myself should proceed to the railway station to see the men off.

February 7.—I distributed to-day at Her Majesty's Consulate, on the part of the Consular Body, and in their presence, gratuities to the men of the Turkish detachment above-mentioned. M. Zammero, the Austrian Postmaster at this place, came to complain to M. Lux, who was at Her Majesty's Consulate, that two officers and four

Cossacks having been billetted at his house, the latter, in the absence of the officers, had robbed his mother of four rings, a string of pearls, a silk dress, and other articles. From all sides, complaints are heard of acts of robbery committed by the Russian troops.

February 9.—The military guard left at Adrianople by the Turkish authorities for the protection of the foreign Consulates and communities paraded before Her Majesty's Consulate at 7 A.M., with their arms and accoutrements. The guard comprised one captain, two lieutenants, one sergeant-major, five sergeants, nine corporals, and sixty-one rank and file: in all, seventy-nine strong. Afterwards, escorted by twelve mounted Cossacks, under the command of a captain, they marched to the railway station, where M. Lax, the Austrian Consul, and myself, found them at 10 A.M. We found the Russian soldiers fraternizing with the Turkish Nizams. The Turkish guard having drawn up, I addressed them, thanking them for their services, in the name of the Consular Corps. I explained to them that it was with the consent and approval of the Grand Duke that they were not considered as prisoners of war, and were allowed to retire within the Turkish lines. General Stein, who arrived at the station shortly afterwards, on seeing that the Turkish soldiers were being put into open trucks, while some horses belonging to Russian officers occupied covered waggons, immediately ordered the latter to be cleared for the use of the Turkish troops.

February 10.—The Greek Archbishop of Ortakioi, a large Greek village in the district of Demotica, six hours from here, arrived yesterday evening at Adrianople in disguise, a fugitive from the ill-treatment of his community, who had endeavoured to force him to sign a declaration of discontent with Turkish rule. It appears that the inhabitants of Ortakioi are desirous of being included in the new Bulgarian Principality, because they have compromised themselves since the Russian occupation by the plunder of the neighbouring Turkish villages, and also of Turkish fugitives passing through their district.

I am told that the Russian Commandant at Demotica is getting up a petition, signed by the Christians of that town and the adjacent villages, begging the Grand Duke Nicholas to get that district, which is in a great measure Greek, included within the Bulgarian Principality. I also hear that M. Gueroff, lately Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, is getting another petition signed by the Christian inhabitants of Adrianople, but I have not ascertained in what sense it is couched.

The Greek Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, M. Metalas, who arrived yesterday, called on me to-day. He states that the Russian troops and the Bulgarians have completely pillaged that town, and are committing all kinds of outrages.

M. Ghennadis, my Greek colleague, also called, and related that he had just seen a number of sick Turkish soldiers lying in a street close by, and that one of them died before his eyes. M. Flesch, the French Consul, Mr. Grant, correspondent of the "Daily News," and Mr. Villiers, artist of the "Graphic," accompanied me to the spot, where we found one dead soldier lying across the street, and twelve other men, evidently very ill, crouching against the wall. In reply to our inquiries, these men, who were all Turks, informed us that they had been turned out of the hospital by the Russian doctors on the pretext that they were cured, and that they were being conducted, under the charge of the Russian sentry who was with them, to the Commandant, in order to have their names registered as prisoners of war. One of the men was so ill that he could not walk, and the Russian sentry consented to his being taken charge of by us on our giving him a written declaration as to his condition. This was given, and signed by the French and Greek Consuls, by Mr. Black, Director of the Ottoman Bank and Agent of the Red Crescent Society, and by Mr. Grant, Mr. Villiers, and myself. The Turkish Imam of the quarter being present, we had the man carried to his house, and all of us contributed to a sum for his support for a few days. Some Turkish fugitives came and related to me that they had fled from Mustapha Pasha, and that they, and a large number of other Turkish villagers who had sought refuge there, had been compelled to fly by the Bulgarians, who attacked them and massacred some of their women and children. I referred them to the local "Commission of Safety."

In the evening, a Turk came complaining that some Bulgarians were pillaging his house and maltreating his family. Captain Hilbert and Mr. Grant, correspondents of the "Times," and Mr. Millet, correspondent of the "Daily News," who were spending the evening with me, proposed that we should go and inquire into the case. We took two of the Russian soldiers on guard at the Consulate, and just as we reached the house in question, a man who was there took to his heels. Mr. Millet and myself, with one of the soldiers, pursued him, but he effected his escape. On returning to the house, we found another Bulgarian there who was armed with a revolver, and who endeavoured to conceal himself. As he could not satisfactorily account for his presence in the house, we gave him in charge to the Russian guard, with orders to take him to the Commandant.

During the night there were two fires in the town. One took place not very far from the Ottoman Bank. It was a serious one, and some twenty shops were burnt. The other broke out about the same time, behind the house lately occupied by the Ottoman Delegates. Only one or two small buildings were destroyed in this instance. In both cases the fires occurred through the carelessness of Russian soldiers.

February 11.—Prince Alexander, of Battenberg, called this morning at Her Majesty's Consulate and asked if I could inform him where Her Majesty's ship "Sultan" was stationed, and whether the Duke of Edinburgh was on board. As I was unable to furnish information on the subject, His Highness requested me to telegraph to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, which I did, giving him the telegram to forward through the Russian authorities.

The Prince spoke in bitter terms of the Bulgarians. He said that if the Turks were bad, the Bulgarians were a thousand times worse; that he pitied him who should be called upon to govern them; and that it would be absolutely necessary that they should be ruled with an iron hand. He attributed the present lack of discipline in the Russian army of occupation, and the pillaging which goes on in this town as elsewhere, to the evil influence of these Bulgarians, whom he considers to be a despicable people.

Three Turks were brought in this morning from Demotica, heavily chained, and under a Cossack guard. They are accused of having perpetrated atrocities on the Christians at that place.

February 12.—The matters of the Rev. W. Rosenberg's complaint against Prince Mirsky, for having expelled him and his family from the house they were occupying, was, after the lapse of eleven days, happily arranged to-day, through the good offices of the French Military Attaché, Colonel Gaillard. The Prince attributed the misunderstanding to an intrigue of the local Commission, who had represented to the Town Commandant that the house was untenanted. His Excellency now placed at the disposal of Mr. Rosenberg two rooms of the house for his immediate use, and stated that as he, the Prince, would be leaving Adrianople in a few days, Mr. Rosenberg would soon obtain complete possession of his house again. Mr. Rosenberg accepted this arrangement, and has requested me not to take any further steps in the matter.

Inclosure 3 in No. 7.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, February* 13, 1878.

ACTS of pillage continue to be committed by the Russian troops, who are aided in the work by the Christian rabble of the town. The Turkish quarter has now been completely sacked. The Mahommedan inhabitants, and even the native Christians, are, however, far from being the only sufferers by this state of things. Not a day passes without the foreign Consuls receiving complaints of the property of their countrymen being plundered, in many cases to a serious extent. At the same time, with the sole exception of one of the earliest cases (that of an Austrian subject, who was indemnified by General Skobeloff, but whose house has since been pillaged a second time), no redress whatever has been obtained by the sufferers.

Whilst these grave offences remain absolutely unchecked and unpunished by the military authorities, even imaginary causes of complaint preferred by the Russian soldiers against respectable and inoffensive inhabitants, whether native or foreign, are, without inquiry, visited by those authorities with summary and severe punishment.

As instances of the latter category, affecting foreign subjects, I may mention the two following:—

Some days ago a Russian soldier asked a respectable Greek artizan named Constantine Papagopoulo to open for him a Martini-Henry rifle cartridge, which he wanted to examine. As the Greek was complying with the request the cartridge exploded, and slightly scratched both himself and the Russian. The soldier thereupon brought the Greek before the Commandant of the town (Colonel Zelulkine) and made out some unknown charge against him in Russian. Without the nature of the charge being explained to the person accused, or his being allowed to say a word for himself, he was at once ordered to strip off his clothes. The Greek complied, under the belief

that the object was to search him. No sooner had he done so, however, than he was seized by the soldiers, who, each armed with a "cowhide," administered twenty-five strokes on his bare body in the presence of the Commandant.

The Greek Consul, in communicating to the Consular Corps this outrageous proceeding, invited his colleagues to make a joint representation on the subject to the superior Russian authorities. At the suggestion of the French Consul, it was ultimately agreed to await the result of a special application on the part of the Greek Consul. In the meantime the French Military Attaché (Colonel Gaillard) undertook to make, verbally and privately, a strong remonstrance on the subject to the Russian military authorities. The result of this overture was, that before the Greek Consul had the time to dispatch the note which he had prepared on the subject, the Commandant waited upon him in person, and, with the most humble apologies, begged M. Ghennadis to do him the favour not to send in his complaint. M. Ghennadis complied, and the matter has thus been allowed to drop.

Another respectable Greek subject, the proprietor of an hotel here, has been compelled to pay a fine of 5*l.*, because a Russian soldier complained that his cap had been knocked off by some unknown person in the courtyard of the hotel.

I beg leave to avail myself of this opportunity to mention that Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché on the Grand Duke Nicholas' staff, has in more than one instance very kindly used his good offices and influence with the Russian military authorities in arranging differences between them and the foreign residents at this place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 7.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, February 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. McGahan, the correspondent of the "Daily News" at the Russian head-quarters, told me during his recent visit to Adrianople that Akif Effendi, the Kaïmakam of Kyzanlik, at the time of the first Russian occupation of that town in July last, whose harsh treatment by the Russians and Bulgarians formed the subject of previous correspondence from this Consulate, was publicly executed at Gabrova by order of the Russian Commandant of that place.

Mr. McGahan also remarked to me that had he been at Gabrova at the time he would have done his utmost to prevent this execution, as he believed Akif Effendi had gone mad shortly after his capture by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 7.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 18 *Février*, 1878.

Excellence,

D'APRÈS les informations qui me parviennent il paraîtrait que quelques Grecs Rayas des districts de Kessan et Charkoui profitent de la présence des Russes pour faire du mal aux Turcs. Je suis informé que les Grecs de Kessan ont pillé et brulé presque tous les tchifflicks (fermes) des Turcs.

Les troupes Russes qui arrivent à Kessan sont très mal habillées et sans provisions de bouche. Elles s'abattent sur tout le bétail, qui sera bientôt détruit. Elles abattent des maisons pour se procurer le combustible pour se chauffer.

Je donne à Sir Edmond Commorell toutes les informations que je puis recueillir sur le mouvement des Russes.

Son Excellence Lord Derby m'a télégraphié, le 13 courant, en chiffres. N'ayant pas de clef chiffrée j'ai dû m'adresser à Mr. Fife pour expliquer cette dépêche. Si votre Excellence le croit nécessaire, elle pourra me munir d'une clef chiffrée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 8.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 251.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.

AN English gentleman, the editor of one of the leading newspapers here, paid a visit last week to the head-quarters of General Scobeloff at Tchataldja.

He informs me that he found amongst the Russian officers the strongest irritation against England. At General Scobeloff's table a Russian General (Pantin was, I think, his name), spoke in terms so disrespectful and insulting of the Queen that the gentleman in question felt it his duty as an Englishman to leave the house and return to Constantinople.

My informant tells me that all the Russian officers whom he met seemed to have made up their minds that Constantinople was to be occupied by a Russian army. If they were received as friends so much the better for the city, they said, but if they had to force their way into it they would not leave one stone standing upon another. Their vengeance seemed particularly directed against Pera, and my informant is of opinion that should the Russians enter the capital as enemies, this quarter of the city will especially suffer, and that the Embassies, and particularly that of Her Majesty, will not escape, but will probably be sacked. He believes that the Russian soldiers would be allowed, if not encouraged, to pillage without restraint.

It appears that the Cossacks and Russians are committing great excesses in the towns that they have occupied between this and Adrianople, robbing, ravishing, and murdering. The Greeks, as well as the Mussulmans, are the victims. At Tchataldja the Greek Bishop, clergy, and notables came to the gentleman who gave me this information and implored him to intercede with General Scobeloff to put a stop to these outrages. The General said at first that he would see what he could do to prevent them, but on the following day remarked that they (the Russians) had conquered the country and had a right to do what they liked with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 252.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's Secret telegram of the 14th instant, I have explained to the Sultan that his message with respect to the fleet, transmitted by me to your Lordship on the 15th, did not reach you until the afternoon of the 14th, and that consequently I was unable to give His Majesty an earlier answer. I stated to His Majesty that I was directed to inform him that Her Majesty's Government fully appreciated its very friendly nature.

I further acquainted His Majesty with the instructions telegraphed on the 13th instant to St. Petersburgh, protesting against the despatch of Her Majesty's ship to Constantinople being made a pretext for occupying the capital in force by Russia, and I also gave His Majesty to understand that the Austrian Government had made a representation to that of Russia in the same sense.

I did not fail to assure the Sultan that when the approaching Conference assembled, His Majesty would find that Her Majesty's Government had left no stone unturned to obtain for his Empire the most favourable terms which circumstances rendered possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 10.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 253.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 19, 1878.

THE statement made on the authority of Server Pasha by the correspondent of the "Daily News" with the head-quarters of the Russian army at Adrianople, and published in that journal on the 7th instant, caused great and general indignation here. Both the Sultan and the Prime Minister sent at once to express to me their deep regret that a public functionary, occupying a high and responsible position, should have been guilty of so flagrant a breach of duty, and they promised me that justice should be done.

I informed Server Pasha that after this public declaration as to his policy and his sentiments towards England, I would have no further relations with him; and I expressed my hope to the Prime Minister that his Excellency would be at once removed from his place of Minister for Foreign Affairs. He was dismissed yesterday evening.

Server Pasha began by denying that he had authorized the correspondent of the "Daily News" to make the statement attributed to him. But there was no reason to doubt that he had done so.

As regards the other statements published by the correspondent of the "Daily News," they are founded upon mere gossip. I absolutely deny that I ever encouraged the Turks to go to war, or to continue the war; or that I ever promised them material help from England, or led them in any way to expect it. So far from such being the case, I have used all my efforts, as your Lordship is aware, from the day of my arrival here as Her Majesty's Ambassador, in favour of peace, and have fulfilled your Lordship's instructions to the letter, in warning the Porte that it could hope for no aid from England, and that Her Majesty's Government had no intention of deviating from the policy of neutrality that it had laid down at the outbreak of the war. But this is not the time for entering fully upon this question.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum which I addressed to the Prime Minister about Server Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Ambassador begs leave to call the attention of his Highness the Prime Minister to a statement in the "Daily News" of the 7th instant, purporting to have been made by his Excellency Server Pasha to the correspondent of that journal at the Russian head-quarters for publication. Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot believe for one moment that his Excellency could have used the language attributed to him—language totally opposed to the courtesy, dignity, and reserve that distinguished his Excellency, and all Ottoman functionaries; but as the correspondent in question states that he had the express authority of his Excellency to make the statement in question, it is the duty of Her Majesty's Ambassador to ask for an immediate explanation with regard to it for his own information as well as for that of his Government.

Her Majesty's Ambassador requests his Highness to have the goodness to ascertain who the member of Server Pasha's mission was that made the further communications to the correspondent of the "Daily News" with reference to Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Layard. Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot doubt that, whoever he may be, his Highness will take proper notice of the misconduct of a public functionary in thus addressing himself to a person connected with a public journal.

British Embassy, February 16, 1878.

No. 11.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 254.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 20, 1878.

THE Sultan assembled last week, in the Palace of Yeldiz, a great Council of State, including the present Ministers, ex-Ministers, the Sheik ul Islam, other high functionaries and Commissions from the Upper and Lower Chambers, and their respective Presidents. His Majesty placed before them, in a speech, which, I understand, he delivered himself, the condition of the Empire, the threatened occupation of Constantinople by the Russians in consequence of the entry of British ships of war into the Sea of Marmora. He expressed his wish to have the opinion and advice of the assembly as to the course which, under the circumstances, should be taken. He then desired his secretary to read the telegrams which had passed between himself and the commanders of his armies. One of the Mussulman members for Constantinople, Astardgi, said that it was unfortunate that the information thus communicated, the condition of the country, and the state of affairs, had not been submitted to the representatives of the nation some months ago. In that case their counsels might have been of some use. The truth had been concealed from them, and it was now too late to come to them for support and advice.

This bold speech seems to have greatly irritated the Sultan, who sprang to his feet, saying, angrily, that he had learnt with surprise and sorrow that even his own person had been attacked in the Chamber of Deputies, and that he would be compelled to treat its members as his grandfather (Sultan Mahmoud) would have done. His Majesty then left the hall.

The Sultan shortly afterwards entered another chamber, to which the persons who had assembled in the palace had been conducted. His Majesty asked whether they had come to any decision as to admitting the Russians into the capital, or opposing their advance by force. The majority were of opinion that no further resistance was possible, and that Russian troops should be admitted as friends into the city. A "mazbata," or official appeal, to the Sultan was drawn up in this sense. Several of the most influential persons present, including the Sheik ul Islam, Mahmoud Damat Pasha, and Mehemet Rushdi Pasha, who declared that he had left his seal at home, refused to affix their seals to it; but the rest put their names to it.

In the evening it was resolved to dissolve the Parliament, which was accordingly done by the Prime Minister in person on the following morning.

The Minister of Police has since requested some of the leading members of the Chamber to leave the capital, and to return to their residences in the provinces for which they were elected. Some of them have at once obeyed. Others have concealed themselves. I am assured upon authority, which I have no reason to believe untrustworthy, that the dissolution of the Chamber was arranged by M. Onou, the Russian drugoman, on his first visit here, and that he stated that it was the Emperor's particular request that an end should be put to the Turkish Parliament. I think it highly probable that such was the case. Your Lordship will remember that long ago I warned Her Majesty's Government that if Russia was successful in her war against Turkey, she would destroy the germs of constitutional institutions that promised future good and just government to the various populations of the Turkish Empire.

The account of what occurred at the Palace on the occasion of the meeting of the Council was given to me on pretty good authority; but I cannot vouch for its strict accuracy.

I inclose another version of it which was obtained by Mr. Jocelyn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure in No. 11.

Memorandum.

ON Wednesday, the 13th February, a meeting was called of the Cabinet and chief dignitaries of the Empire at the Sultan's Palace at Yeldiz, for the purpose of deliberating upon the advisability of offering further resistance to the victorious advance of the Russian forces on the capital.

In order to give the meeting more or less of a consultative character, four members

of the Chamber, besides its President, were also summoned. At the close of the discussion a vote was taken, when it was decided almost unanimously not to oppose the entrance of Russian troops, Mahmoud Damat, however, being in favour of a further determined resistance.

After this, the Sultan rose and addressed those present, saying that it had come to his knowledge that much misconception prevailed as to the part which he had taken in the conduct of the military operations, and the later negotiations; and in order to clear himself from blame in the matter, commanded his Secretary to read out all the telegrams which had been sent by him during the latter part of the war to the Commanders of his forces.

One of the members of Parliament, the member for Constantinople, then rose and—as some say, with an insolent and disrespectful manner—told the Sultan that the Chamber ought to have been informed of this four months ago. Now that the Chamber had been prorogued was not the time to consult it, and it was a mere mockery of constitutional régime to do so.

Others again maintain that the demeanour of the member in question was dignified, and that his remarks, although firm, were in no sense unbecoming in addressing his Sovereign.

The Sultan, however, appears to have taken offence at the remonstrance, and directed that the speaker should be punished for disrespect to his person.

I have been told that at the close of the meeting the Prime Minister and others requested and obtained His Majesty's promise to overlook the fault, not out of clemency to the person of the offender, but from regard to the dignity of one of the Members of the Parliament of the realm.

My informant is of opinion that the dissolution of the Chamber, as it is called to Russia, and the prorogation to European Powers, is altogether a measure undertaken at the desire of the Emperor Alexander, and that a Russian emissary had been arranging the matter with the Cabinet some days before the event took place.

No. 12.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 255.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum on the defeat of Greek insurgents at Ajourna, which was communicated to me by the Austrian Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 12.

Memorandum.

THE Military Commandant at Larissa states that on the 3rd instant there appeared at Ajourna a band of 500 to 600 Greek insurgents, who occupied the convent of Kilesia. Troops were sent to dislodge them, and engaged some 1,500 more insurgents that appeared to reinforce them, gaining a complete victory, killing above 400, and taking a considerable quantity of stores and ammunition.

The Commandant also states that there were over 6,500 insurgents fully equipped in the districts of Candisso and Demoko, but is convinced that it is quite impossible for them to resist successfully the troops the Porte has sent against them.

The Greek subject, Constantine Aravantinou, who was suspected of having been connected with the revolutionary committee at Athens, has been compelled by the authorities to leave the town and embark for Corfu.

No. 13.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 256.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 172 of the 5th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Report from Captain Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," whom I had requested to proceed to Bourgas in order to inquire into the truth of certain rumours as to the massacre of Christians in that neighbourhood, which had been reported to me by Vice-Consul Brophy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 13.

Captain Hamond to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Torch," Constantinople, February 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency my arrival here, in obedience to orders received from Vice-Admiral Hornby. In accordance with your wishes I made inquiries as to alleged massacres of Christians in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, and accompanied by Mr. Brophy, Vice-Consul, I went to the village of Roum Yeni-Koui. On the news of the burning of Aidos and Karnabad reaching them the inhabitants of that place had taken refuge in their church and churchyard, which was surrounded by a wall. A number, about 150, of Albanians and Circassians, led by an Albanian named Noure, came and demanded 6,000*l.* ransom, and on this being refused they besieged the place, firing at the people from the tops of houses in the vicinity. On the evening of the third day the door of the church inclosure was burst open, and these ruffians poured in, firing indiscriminately into the crowd. Owing to the darkness many of the inhabitants managed to escape, but most of the men who fell into the hands of the Albanians and Circassians were killed at once. All that night the women were outraged in the church and churchyard. Of women eight were killed, but of gun-shot wounds. The whole number of people killed, according to a list taken with their names, amounted to 126. The dead had been buried where they fell, and I saw the graves all about the village; about two-thirds of the houses had been destroyed by fire. I had no opportunity of verifying reports from other places, but from all I could gather every village has suffered more or less in a similar way; generally money had been extorted with violence, and cases of murder and violation taken place.

As regards Bourgas the shops had all been pillaged before my departure on the 18th January, as I reported. On the 24th January 300 Turkish troops and zaptiehs arrived from Constantinople in the Austrian steamer "Galatea," and were quartered in the town, and instead of repressing robbery, &c., these troops themselves completed the spoliation of the houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HAMOND.

No. 14.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a report from Captain Fife, giving an account of the massacres and outrages perpetrated by Cossacks and Bulgarians near Keshan and further north.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Gallipoli, February 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that great excesses by the Cossacks and Christian population, which is almost entirely Greek, upon the Turks in the neighbourhood of Keshan and further north, are reported.

Suleiman Pasha and the Governor of Gallipoli wrote some time since to the Porte on the subject, that it might be represented to the Russian authorities and put an end to; but according to latest accounts the same state of affairs continues.* The Cossacks violate the Turkish women. The Christians plunder the houses of Turks, and frequently kill Mahomedan villagers and stragglers from the armies.

Suleiman Pasha said that he attributed the evil to the supineness of the Russian General in command, as in some other parts of the country in Russian occupation, at Rodosto for instance, it was believed nothing of the kind had been permitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain*,
Military Attaché.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 262. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1878.

I HAVE had two conversations with M. Fournier, the new French Ambassador. His Excellency seemed exceedingly desirous of impressing upon me that France was not in a position to take any part in the Eastern question, and that it was of the utmost importance that England should not entangle herself in a war with Russia for any interests, however important they were, which she might consider connected with the Eastern question. It was to the West, and not to the East, his Excellency insisted, that England would require her ships and her soldiers. He had no doubt whatever, nor had M. Waddington, nor had any French statesman, that Prince Bismarck was desirous of seeing England engaged in a war with Russia in the East, in order that he might carry out his design of annexing Holland, and probably Belgium, to Germany, or, if not of actually annexing them, of compelling them to join the Germanic Confederation, and to place their ports at the disposal of Germany. Prince Bismarck was determined to have Rotterdam and, especially, Flushing. Antwerp would naturally follow. In that direction was the real danger to England. She ought to husband all her strength to prepare for it, and when it occurred she might expect France to be with her. He had not a shadow of doubt that there was a perfect understanding between Gortchakow and Bismarck, and that the war with Turkey was especially directed against England and France. Russia had not assisted Germany for nothing during the Franco-German war. Prince Bismarck was now paying his debt of gratitude by aiding Russia to carry out her designs in the East; and when Russia had acquired all she needed from Turkey, she would have to open a new account with Germany by helping her to carry out her designs in the West.

M. Fournier said that he had told the Porte distinctly that France would not move, "no bougera pas," and that no help was to be expected from her.

On general questions connected with Turkey, M. Fournier expressed sentiments to me very much in conformity with my own, especially as to the importance of maintaining the Turkish Parliament, as affording some kind of link between the various autonomous states and provinces into which Turkey in Europe was about to be divided, without which the Empire must speedily fall to pieces, and as a means of exposing grievances, and of improving the administration.

M. Fournier was received yesterday privately by the Sultan to present his letters of credence, His Majesty being still too unwell, and too much depressed by the state of public affairs, to go through the fatigue of a public audience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* A friendly feeling existed between Christians and Turks when I recently passed through this country, so that the present ill-feeling must have been stirred up since.

No. 16.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 264. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1878.

THE Porte has received a telegram from the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna, dated the 20th instant, to the effect that he had been informed by Count Andrassy that he had insisted upon the meeting of the Congress within fifteen days, that is, on the 16th March at the latest, but that Russia had asked for further delay. The Count had added that for himself he had no intention of departing from the declaration that he had made, and that he was resolved not to subscribe to any of the stipulations come to at Adrianople, which might be contrary to the interests of Austria and in opposition to certain bases of the Treaty of Paris. The language of Count Andrassy, the Ambassador states, was very categorical; but from authentic information that had reached him, the three points upon which Count Andrassy would exclusively insist, would be the complete freedom of the navigation of the Danube, the question of the Straits, and the evacuation of Bulgaria by the Russian armies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 265.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1878.

THE Prime Minister came to me in the middle of the day on Wednesday, 20th instant, in a state of great agitation, to inform me that he had just received, through M. Onou, the Russian head dragoman, a peremptory demand from the Grand Duke Nicholas for the surrender of the whole of the Turkish fleet, and a notification that 30,000 Russian troops would occupy Constantinople without delay. His Highness said that these resolutions had been taken by the Grand Duke, on account of the presence of British ships of war in the Sea of Marmora, and a report which had reached the Russian Government that England was about to purchase the Turkish iron-clads.

I asked his Highness what time had been given to him to consider the Russian demands. He replied that he might have to sign an engagement to accept them that very afternoon, and that he was on his way to the Palace to submit them to the Sultan and some of his Ministers. He authorized me to communicate what he had stated to me to your Lordship, which I did at once by the telegraph.

In the evening, his Highness sent to inform me that the Sultan had absolutely refused to give up his ships to Russia, and that it had been decided at the Council held at the Palace, presided over by His Majesty, to inform the Grand Duke Nicholas that the Turkish fleet would not be surrendered either to England or to Russia, and that if either Power threatened to use force to seize it the ships would be sunk. As regards the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople, the Grand Duke was to be requested not to permit them to come further than San Stefano, which was virtually a suburb of the city. In that case, Russia might proclaim to Europe, and the Porte would admit, that Russian troops had actually entered Constantinople, and any acts performed at San Stefano would be considered as performed in the capital itself. Ahmed Veïyk Pasha had seen M. Onou, who had undertaken to submit the Sultan's proposals to the Grand Duke Nicholas, without, however, pledging himself that they would be accepted.

The Prime Minister earnestly entreated me to keep Her Majesty's ships at a distance from the Bosphorus, so that the Grand Duke might not have a further pretext for carrying out his threats, and I received a similar request from the Sultan later in the evening. I accordingly spoke to Admiral Hornby on the subject yesterday, and he at once consented to remain at the Gulf of Ismid, about twenty-five miles from the Golden Horn.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 268.)
Constantinople, February 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Rassam respecting the state of affairs in the provinces through which he has been travelling.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Mr. Rassam to Mr. Layard.

Mossul, January 9, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, in accordance with my intimation contained in paragraph 16 of my letter dated 26th November, I had to go down to Baghdad, on the 10th ultimo, for the purpose of conferring with the Governor-General about the general state of affairs, and the insecurity on the roads in that part of Koordistan between Mossul and the Nestorian monasteries.

I return to Mossul on the 4th instant, and the day before yesterday I commenced my explorations at Koyunjik and its immediate vicinity.

2. Your Excellency's telegram of the 10th December, in which I was informed that my "political mission ceases," reached Mossul after my departure hence for Baghdad, and it was sent to me thither by post. When I received it, I had already communicated with the Governor-General about different matters connected with my mission, and I did not think it advisable to break off our friendly intercourse without knowing exactly how far I was to give up all interference in matters that I had already begun. I shall now await your further instructions upon the subject, and see whether I am still to represent the grievances of the Nestorians and others in a friendly way to the authorities or not.

3. When I reached Baghdad on the 15th ultimo the Governor-General went away for four days for change of air, and I did not see him till five days afterwards.

The Mohammedan feast of Koorban Bairam and Christmas having intervened, I was delayed at Baghdad longer than I wished, so I was not able to leave before the 20th ultimo.

4. I beg to state that my political mission has created no ill-feeling between the different communities, nor have I ever given the authorities any cause of jealousy or complaint in all my intercourse with them. On the contrary, I have always been received by all classes and nationalities in Asiatic Turkey, during my mission, with the greatest consideration and respect; and I have been cautious not to create any feeling of jealousy between the Moslems and Christians whenever I had to represent the grievances of the latter to the authorities.

5. I represented to the Vali of Baghdad the want of proper protection to life and property. He said that he was trying his best to keep order and that he had called on the Koords who had been harassing the Nestorians, to make restitution for the plundered property, and would see that justice is done. Since my return here, I have been informed by the Moutessarif of Mossul, that the Hirkee and other tribes who had plundered the Nestorians, asserted that they had only retaliated, as the Nestorians of Lugari had plundered them before, and they were willing to restore what they had taken, provided the Nestorians themselves would also make good what they took from them. But the difficulty of ascertaining the truth lies, as the Governor of Mossul remarked to me, in constituting a legal Court to try the case, because the Nestorians of Lugari and the Hirkee tribe belong to different provinces, the former being under the Vilayet of Van, and the latter under that of Baghdad. It seems that the only remedy for settling such matters properly is by appointing a special Commission or Commissioners to settle all disputes existing between the different tribes that inhabit separate provinces, but yet move about from one vilayet to another, such as the nomadic tribes in the Pashaliks of Diarbekir and Mossul.

I do not believe the statement of the Hirkee tribe, however, with regard to the Nestorians being the aggressors, as these Koords are reckoned by every one to be great robbers, and the Nestorians are not in the habit of plundering, though on one occasion

they took the law into their own hands by seizing some sheep which belonged to a tribe that had, a few days before, plundered them.

6. Aakif Pasha, the Governor-General of Baghdad, was exceedingly courteous, and seemed glad to learn from me about the state of things in the Moutessarif of Mossul. He created no difficulty about anything, but as soon as I represented to him any case which required looking into, he attended to it at once.

7. I regret to state that the want of security to life and property in these parts is very much felt; and in this town especially, the peaceful inhabitants are afraid to venture out at night without proper protection. Some men have been actually plundered and wounded at their doors.

8. The fall of Kars and Plevna has created immense excitement, both at Baghdad and here amongst the Mohammedan population; and had it not been for the feeling that England was befriending Turkey, woe betide the poor Christians. All classes of the Moslem communities, whether Arabs, Koords, or Turks, have resolved, that if peace is not concluded with Russia before the spring, to go to the jihad and fight for their country. They say that they would rather die on the battle-field than to remain at home and lose their liberty. There is no doubt that the peaceful Mohammedans are to be pitied, because not only have they to fill the ranks of the regular troops, the reserves, and the militia, but they have also to contribute largely towards the maintenance of the garrisons both in Asia and Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. RASSAM.

No. 19.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 113.)
Athens, February 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, assured me this morning that since the withdrawal of the Greek forces no regular troops had crossed the frontiers, and that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, has also informed me that neither the Imperial provincial authorities nor the Ottoman Consular authorities have reported to him the passage into Epirus of regular troops, but that he hears that armed bands of volunteers continue to leave Greece for Turkey.

There is no doubt, my Lord, that the raising of bands of volunteers continues, and that Greece is proceeding with her armaments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 20.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 114.)
Athens, February 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive two telegrams from your Lordship yesterday morning, dated the 16th instant, and repeating to me telegrams which had been addressed to you by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Before communicating with the Greek Government on the subject of the telegrams in question, I called upon the French Minister, and informed him of their substance, calling his attention in particular to the paragraph in one of the telegrams which states that the Porte was thinking of giving the Greek Minister his passports immediately. M. Tissot at once offered to accompany me to see M. Delyanni, but we were not fortunate enough to find him either at his office or at his own house.

I saw M. Delyanni, however, this morning, and I communicated to him verbally the substance of your Lordship's telegrams, and I told him that M. Tissot and I had been anxious to see him earlier in order to point out to him the danger to which Greece appeared to be exposed.

M. Delyanni thanked me, and assured me that no regular troops had crossed the frontiers into Turkey since the withdrawal of the Greek army from Thessaly; but he showed me a telegram from one of the Greek Consuls in Epirus (I think at Janina)

stating that a band of Epirotes, under Epirote chiefs, had been reported to have entered the Province of Epirus from Greece.

Later in the day I saw Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister, and I told him of the reports which had reached me, and he replied that up till that time he had not received, either from the Imperial provincial authorities or from the Turkish Consular authorities in Greece, any report of the passage of Greek regular troops into Epirus, but that he had been informed of the passage of bands of armed volunteers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 21.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of an extract from a letter which I received yesterday from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, in which Mr. Wood informs me that the movement of Greek troops and volunteers continues, and reports that one of the Deputies of Patras is empowered by the Government to raise volunteers.

Mr. Wood further reports that 150 prisoners have escaped from the prison at Pyrgos owing to the soldiers having been withdrawn, and an inefficient guard left to take care of them.

On receiving this intelligence I telegraphed to Mr. Wood to know if the report he had mentioned in his letter as to the escape of the prisoners was confirmed, and I received an answer from him this morning to the effect that it was confirmed by letters from the Vice-Consul at Pyrgos, and that amongst the escaped prisoners there were several murderers.

I asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs, at an interview which I had with him to-day, in the first place, what truth there was in the report mentioned by Mr. Wood, that a Deputy for Patras had been empowered by the Government to raise volunteers. M. Delyanni replied that he did not think it was true, but that some officers had been charged with raising some battalions of "Evzones" (light infantry troops dressed in the fustanella costume). I then asked him if he had heard of the escape of prisoners from the prison at Pyrgos. He said that he had, but that some had been re-arrested. I remarked to his Excellency that I thought this was a most regrettable incident, and one which might do much harm to Greece in public opinion ("qui pourrait faire beaucoup de tort à la Grèce"); and I reminded him that, in 1854, when a movement, fostered by Greece, took place in Thessaly and Epirus, the prison at Chalcis had been opened and the prisoners let loose.

The circumstances of this case were reported to the Earl of Clarendon by Sir Thomas Wyse, in his despatch No. 19 of the 13th February, 1854.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Patras, February* 15, 1878.

THE movement of Greek troops and volunteers continues. Last night about 200 men of the reserve marched into our town from Pyrgos, and the Greek steamer "Eptanisos" arrived this morning from the Piræus with 150 volunteers, all Chimariotts. These men are all sent on to the frontiers. The last, I believe, go viâ Santa Maura.

M. George Rouffos, a Patras Deputy, has also arrived by the "Eptanisos," and is empowered by the Government to raise volunteers.

The Government has been obliged to send round the two steamers "Iris" and "Eptanisos," to carry troops from place to place, as the Austrian steamers have refused to take soldiers on board.

It is reported that 150 prisoners have escaped from the prison at Pyrgos, as the soldiers had been taken away, and a small inefficient guard left to take care of them.

No. 22.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 18, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 99 of the 11th February, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Sabouroff informed me, in reply to a question I asked him to-day, that the dispute as to territory at Agrapha, to which he had alluded, was the one which took place when Mr. Erskine was Her Majesty's Minister at this Court. I was, therefore, correct in my assumption which I laid before your Lordship in my despatch No. 100 of the 12th February.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 23.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 118.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 111 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship a further and more complete list of leaders of irregular bands both in Thessaly and Epirus, which was published in yesterday's "Stoa," an Athens newspaper.

An order has been published in to-day's "Ephimeris" signed by the Minister for War, that the names of M. Tschomachos, a Captain of Artillery; of M. Basdeki, a Captain of Gendarmerie; of M. Axelos, a Sub-Lieutenant of Infantry; and of M. Platoutzas, also a Sub-Lieutenant, are to be struck off the Active List of the army. This measure has been adopted, I have reason to believe, owing to representations of the Turkish Minister.

Mr. Wood, in his letter to me, of which I have inclosed an extract to your Lordship in my despatch No. 115, mentions the arrival from the Pirœus of 150 Chimariotts. These men must have, therefore, come into Greece from Epirus to receive arms, and are now returning to assist in an insurrectionary movement in that province.

I have remarked that the Greek Government endeavour, with a view probably of escaping responsibility, to prove that the volunteers who leave Greece are either Thessalians or Epirotes; this, from Mr. Wood's letter, appears to be the case to a certain extent; but the leaders, whose names are mentioned in the inclosed list, are mostly, if not all, Greeks well known in Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Extract from the "Stoa" of February $\frac{6}{18}$, 1878.

(Translation.)

AS we omitted in our No. 35 of $\frac{14}{26}$th of this month, to give the names of several of the Chiefs and Leaders of the insurrection in Thessaly and Epirus, we now publish a more complete list of their names as follows.

In Thessaly:—

1. Z. Basdeki (an officer in the Greek service).
2. Garephis.
3. Tsolios.
4. Exarchos.
5. Condoyannis.
6. D. Soulzos (a son of General Soulzo, commanding Greek troops).
7. Divvouniotí (Deputy Greek Chamber).
8. C. Hadgisko (Deputy Greek Chamber).
9-10. The Brothers Valentza.
11. L. Platoutzas.
12. Lolondas.
13. Mitzus.
14. Nicolaides (Professor of Mathematics at the University of Athens, appointed by Government).
15. Bellos (of the sacred company).

16. Nicolaïdes.
17. Ischomachos.
18. Galis.
19-20. C. and L. Zoulounnis.
21. N. Axelos (officer in the Greek army).
22. Tertipis.
23. Marvulis.
24. Economides (the first local chief who proclaimed the insurrection, and fought in Thessaly).
25. Lismanis.
26. Zakas.
27. Joannis Kyrozis.
28. Theni Lazos (a lawyer of Lamia).
29. Chari Dedoussis.
30. Koutsopétalos.
31. Charbis.
32. Joannis Chrestides.
33. Naomu Constantinides.
34. Zacharopoulos.

In Epirus:—

1. Zervas.
2. Valavrites.
3. Zoïs Zoïdes.
4. Katarachias.
5. Skylodemos.
6. Skaltzas.
7. Stratos.
8. Skaltzoyannis.

In all, up to this day, in Thessaly and Epirus, forty-two.

No. 24.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 120.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 19, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 119 of this day's date, I have laid before your Lordship the text of a telegram which reached me this morning from Mr. Ogle, who has been for some time correspondent to the "Times" at Athens, and who is now in Thessaly, apparently with the Greek insurgents.

I felt that it was quite impossible to act upon Mr. Ogle's suggestion that the Greek troops should be called upon to enter Turkey, accompanied by a Commissioner to see that they did not fight, to escort the women and children from Platano to a place of safety, as the Turkish authorities might not have looked upon such a step as other than a *casus belli*, and a collision would most likely have ensued between the Turkish and Greek forces which no Commissioner could in all probability have prevented.

With a view, however, that the women and children mentioned by Mr. Ogle should be placed if possible in safety before the attack which he anticipates, I went at once on the receipt of his telegram to the Turkish Minister, and I asked him if he thought he could telegraph on the subject to the Turkish authorities in Thessaly, but his Excellency said that such a step on his part would be without effect, and that he could only communicate on the subject through the Porte. I then determined to telegraph to the British Vice-Consul at Larissa, to ask him if he could prevail upon the Turkish authorities to allow the women and children at Platano to be conveyed to a place of safety before the attack anticipated by Mr. Ogle took place. I likewise telegraphed to Mr. Layard on this subject, and to Mr. Ogle, informing him that I had telegraphed to the British Vice-Consul at Larissa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

P.S.—My telegrams to Mr. Layard, to Mr. Suter, and to Mr. Ogle are recorded in despatch No. 119 of this day's date.

H. W.

No. 25.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 20, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 115 of the 18th instant, I had the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract from a letter from Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, as

to the movement of troops and volunteers, and reporting that the prisoners in the gaol at Pyrgos had escaped.

I have now the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter addressed by Mr. Pasqualigo, British Vice-Consul at Pyrgos, to Mr. Wood, as to the movement of troops, and as to the escape of the prisoners in question. Their number appears to have been at first exaggerated, as Mr. Pasqualigo says that only sixty-three escaped. He says that seven have been re-arrested.

Unfortunately, the worst characters appear to be still at large.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Pasqualigo to Consul Wood.

(Translation.)
(Private.)
My dear Mr. Wood, *Pyrgos, February 14, 1878.*

BY the present I beg to inform you that the company of infantry that was here, received orders to leave for your place (Patras), and from there to go on to the frontiers, and they left this on Monday. At the same time I beg to inform you that at 2 o'clock P.M., the prisoners, sixty-three in number, of whom twenty and more were condemned criminals for grave crimes, and the others were imprisoned for smaller offences.

Of these last, one was wounded when escaping, and the other six were caught by the Inspector of Police and the Gendarmes. None of the worst of the criminals were arrested, so that it is feared that we shall have robberies at night, murder, and that a band of brigands may be formed, as they are men of most sanguinary disposition.

The Greek Government made a great mistake in withdrawing the troops from this place, and not sending the worst criminals to Zante or to some other safe place.

All the inhabitants are much distressed at what has taken place, and consider the escape of the prisoners as a disgrace and a shame.

(Signed) G. A. PASQUALIGO.

No. 26.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 115 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship extracts from a letter which I have this morning received from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, from which your Lordship will see that the enrolment of volunteers in the Morea continues, and that they are being enrolled with a view of being sent into the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Extract.) *Patras, February 18, 1878.*

AS mentioned in my last note, Mr. G. Ruffos and another person from Athens are enrolling volunteers, and all the idle and rough part of the population is being engaged. These men take an oath of fidelity and receive 30 fr. each, and also Turkish shoes and gaiters. The same thing is going on at Calavrita, and also, I am told, in Maina.

These men seem to be going to fight as volunteers, in their usual clothes and in capotes, which may produce a bad impression on the inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus. I cannot imagine that they will be under any control or do any good. In all parts of the Morea the population seems very enthusiastic.

In a Patras newspaper it is proposed that a large sum should be contributed by the principal inhabitants and foreign merchants. Barff and Co. are put down for 20,000 drachmas, and G. F. Woodly for 10,000 drachmas; but at present these are only feelers, but it is to be hoped that no forced contribution will be attempted.

The Government steamer "Nauplia" is here, and the Greek Steam Navigation Company's steamer "Epiranisos" is here to carry troops, volunteers, and arms to Missolonghi and Santa Maura.

It is very evident that serious complications must arise with Turkey, with all this wild lot of people that are being sent into Turkish provinces.

No. 27.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Photiades Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, remonstrated yesterday, by order of his Government, with the Greek Government with regard to the proceedings of the Greeks on the frontiers, and that the Minister for Foreign Affairs has told me that he has replied that the regular troops had received strict orders not to cross the frontiers, and that irregulars were to be prevented from crossing.

The enrolment of volunteers to proceed to the Turkish provinces and to Crete continues. I will forward to your Lordship any information I can obtain as to the proceedings at Arta as soon as I can.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 28.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 20, 1878.

ON the receipt yesterday of your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I asked for an interview with M. Delyanni, and he received me in the afternoon. His Excellency at once commenced the conversation by informing me that Server Pasha had telegraphed to Photiades Bey to the effect that the Porte could not reconcile the assurances given by the Hellenic Government with what was passing on the frontiers of Greece, that Hellenes were invading Turkish territory, and that he (Photiades Bey) was to ask the Greek Government for explanations, and which he had asked for that day. M. Delyanni went on to say that he had replied to Photiades Bey that he considered the term "Hellenes" as rather vague, that it could not apply, he thought, to regular troops, as no regular troops had crossed the frontiers since they had been withdrawn from Thessaly, and that strict orders had been given that no Greek troops were to be allowed to cross the frontiers, and that if any did so they were to be treated as deserters and punished accordingly, and that irregular bands were not to be allowed to leave Greece, and that measures were being adopted to prevent their formation.

M. Delyanni then told me, with reference to the irregular bands, that His Majesty the King had, on the day before (the 18th instant), seen a band of volunteers at the old Phalerum Harbour, and that His Majesty had expressed himself as much annoyed at this, and that orders had been given that the band should be dispersed. I told M. Delyanni that I had seen the same band, and that they were all armed with rifles and bayonets, and appeared to number about 200 men, and I asked him if they had been disarmed as well as dispersed. M. Delyanni said he did not know whether they had been disarmed, and he informed me that they were men who had been recruited by M. Leonidas Bulgaris, that he must, in order to raise bands, have supplies of money, but that he did not know whence these supplies came, and I then told him that I knew who had sent him 10,000 rifles.

M. Delyanni said that the raising of irregular bands was much to be regretted, as it brought the country into discredit, and I said that I was very glad to hear that he held that opinion, and that if the Government was not careful the irregular bands

would compromise the country and expose Greece to an attack from Turkey, but, I said, nevertheless the departure of bands appeared to continue, for I had that morning learnt that the "Panhellenion" had left, it was said, for Crete, with a large number of volunteers. His Excellency said he had not heard of the departure of the vessel in question, and he sent for information while I was at his office to the Minister of the Interior, who replied that he likewise did not know of her departure.

I then spoke to M. Delyanni as to the insurrection in Thessaly, and as to the telegram I had received from Mr. Ogle that morning, and I said that as M. Tricoupi had often told me that the Government had been doing their best to prevent insurrections in the neighbouring Turkish provinces they might perhaps use their influence now with success to cause the insurrection to cease. M. Delyanni said that perhaps the Great Powers might give the inhabitants of those provinces some assurances as to their future fate ("quant à leur avenir"), to which I replied that it did not at that moment appear to be so much a question of their future as of their present fate, their lives appearing to be in danger owing to their being in a state of insurrection against their Government.

I then told M. Delyanni that the object of my visit was to tell him that your Lordship had received intelligence from the Turkish Ambassador in London that the Greeks had again invaded Turkish territory, and had carried their devastations as far as Arta. M. Delyanni remarked upon the vagueness of the term Greeks, which was the same as employed in Server Pasha's telegram to Photiades Bey, and he said that he had no information as to devastations having been carried on as far as Arta.

I have reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 114 of the 18th instant, that M. Delyanni had informed me that he had heard that a band of Epirotes had invaded Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 29.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 126.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 20, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of this day's date, in which I mentioned having seen a band of armed men at the Phalerum Harbour, which is close to the Piræus, and which band M. Delyanni informed me was to be dispersed, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter dated to-day, which I have received from Mr. Merlin, Her Majesty's Consul at the Piræus, in which he reports having met last night, while on his way home from the Legation, a body of from two to three hundred armed men.

With regard to what Mr. Merlin says about the "Panhellenion" steamer, I have the honour to report that I was informed yesterday that she had left the Piræus with a number of volunteers for Crete, but there seems to be some mystery as to her movements. I believe she is commanded by Captain Sourmelis, who, I am informed, was a famous blockade-runner in 1866-7.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 29.

Consul Merlin to Mr. Wyndham.

Sir, *The Piræus, Athens, February* 20, 1878.

AFTER leaving the Legation at 10·30 last evening for the Piræus, I met a body of 200 to 300 volunteers near the gas-works.

They were all armed, and had new capotes on. A standard was carried by one of the men, but the flag was not unfurled. Many of them, in addition to their capotes, carried also the black and white striped blankets used by the soldiers.

They were marching in a column four or five abreast, and appeared to me to be going towards the Daphne road, which they were close to.

I passed afterwards some more volunteers, but these were without arms or capotes,

and were going towards the Piræus; I saw no troops or patrols on the road, as there always used to be.

I regret to say I cannot find out anything positive about the "Panhellenion," beyond that she left the Piræus harbour on Monday night at 8·40 P.M., some say for Candia, others for Salamis Bay. A boatman told me she left Salamis Bay only last night. If so, the band of volunteers I saw may have been on their way to embark there in her.

There appear to be no volunteers now at the Piræus. I saw about twenty or thirty, however, this morning going through the olive grove towards Phalerum Bay.

I am told that the excitement in the provinces is very great, and that the Government is quite powerless to repress the movement. Many respectable people hope that Turkey will declare war, which, they say, will be preferable to Greece getting nothing, as then anarchy and civil war will be the result.

By going to war with Turkey alone now, and single-handed, they hope to excite the sympathy of Europe, and prove that Greece is not Russian in her aspirations.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) C. L. W. MERLIN.

No. 30.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 14, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to give your Lordship, in a postscript to my last despatch, some account of the disorders committed in the neighbourhood of Rethymo. I had yesterday a long conversation with his Excellency Costaki Pasha on this subject, when he informed me that the Mutessarif of Rethymo, with whom he had been conversing for more than an hour the night before in the telegraph office, had told him that he was quite unable to put a stop to the pillaging that was going on outside Rethymo, as the zaptiehs refused to move until their salaries were paid in ready money, and that the Colonel commanding the two battalions in garrison there was not to be counted on.

Early on the morning of the 12th instant Costaki Pasha sent orders to Vice-Admiral Hussein Pasha, Commander-in-chief in the Archipelago, to proceed without a moment's delay to Rethymo in his flag-ship the "Orchanié," taking with him two companies of regular troops under the command of an energetic officer. This measure of the new Vali has had the happiest effect, the authorities having succeeded in arresting upwards of fifty of the rioters, who will be brought to trial before a special Commission composed of an equal number of Moslems and Christians. The assassins of the two Christians who were found murdered outside Rethymo have also been seized.

By a letter received from Mr. Trifilli, the Consular Agent, I have further particulars of these lamentable doings. Two of the Christian villages in the neighbourhood have been ransacked of everything they possessed, and have been left half ruined, the marauders even tearing down the doors and window-frames, and carrying off all to Rethymo, where they were sold in the streets. The village churches were also profaned.

There is the less excuse for these proceedings inasmuch as the Christians have scrupulously respected the property of the Moslems who had abandoned their homes in obedience to the orders of the Committee in Apokorona. The only plea they can urge in their defence is the pressure of want, by which they are being sorely pinched. The conduct of the Mutessarif Costaki Pasha considers most reprehensible, and he has demanded his recall.

The Consular Agent has not visited the scene of these disturbances, as since the attack lately made on him, it is not safe for him to venture outside the town. The fact of the Mutessarif having apologized for the bad usage he had then received, and his imprisoning two of his assailants, was entirely due to the arrival off Rethymo of Her Majesty's ship "Rupert." It is needless to say that the prisoners were released a few days afterwards.

At Candia the state of affairs is also admitted to be serious. The Vice-Consul there informs me that symptoms are again showing themselves of a movement of the

Moslem peasantry towards the town. In order to prevent it, the Mutessarif called together the leading inhabitants of both communities, and they agreed that six companies of 100 men each should be enrolled, and placed under the orders of chiefs of good repute. These volunteers will be Mahomedans, and will serve without pay. They have formed, at the same time, a Commission of sixteen members, eight of either creed, who will accompany the volunteers to the districts south and east of Candia, where the bulk of the Mussulmans dwell, and it is hoped that partly by force and partly by persuasion, they will be induced to remain at home. The Moslems of those parts have a bad name for lawlessness and ferocity, and if they were crowded together inside the walls of Candia without the means of a livelihood, the consequences might be even more deplorable than those which have happened in Rethymo.

In this town and neighbourhood a greater feeling of security prevails since the adoption of the prudent measures devised by Costaki Pasha, as reported in my despatch No. 14. The mixed Commission formed by His Excellency seems to be acting with impartiality, as the Vali himself is its President, and some of the more disreputable characters whom Samih Pasha had permitted to be enrolled in the Civil Guard, as it is called, have been deprived of their arms. While one of the chiefs of these Moslem volunteers had behaved with ruffianly violence, it is but fair to state that another has gained the general goodwill and confidence by his justice and humanity.

The Vali is well seconded in his endeavours to preserve order by the leading Mussulmans of the town, who are nearly all possessed of extensive olive and orange groves in the neighbourhood, and who, should disorder gain the upper hand, would be the chief sufferers. The Christians complain, not without reason, of the damage done to their growing corn by the depredations committed by the cattle brought by Moslem emigrants from Selino.

The local authorities are doing what they can to prevent it, and they can hardly be blamed if the zaptiehs, whom they have not the means of paying, are remiss in the discharge of their duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 31.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 19. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 17, 1878.*

IT would appear that after the vote taken by the partizans of annexation to Greece, as reported in my despatch No. 17 of the 11th instant, and which resulted in two-thirds of the delegates retiring to the village of Argyropolis, the minority (whose vote was necessarily invalidated), seeing that they could not carry public opinion with them, determined to follow their colleagues to Argyropolis, where they are again united. On the occasion of taking that vote, three Chiefs—two of them recently come from Greece, displayed the Greek flag, which was followed in procession by their armed retainers. I am assured that the sight of the national colours created no enthusiasm, and it is even said that the village women pelted them with stones. This I can readily believe, because throughout the present crisis the influence of the weaker sex has always been exerted to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, from which they would necessarily be the principal sufferers. This act of stone-pelting, therefore, if true, I should look upon not so much as a protest against the ideas of union with Greece, but rather as an effort to discourage any movement calculated to renew the horrors and misery which the prolonged struggle of 1866-68 brought upon them.

The Committee and Delegates thus form one body again, and their present attitude is one of expectation for the answer to be returned by the Porte to their demand for autonomy. From a knowledge of the views held by many intelligent native Christians, I gather that the Cretans would rally to any policy which held out to them a reasonable hope of deliverance from direct Turkish domination. They would exchange that domination for a British Protectorate as willingly as for Greek rule, or would be content to accept an autonomous Principality with the Sultan as their Suzerain, provided, in this latter case, that their liberties were properly guaranteed. The last vote made it evident that there is no enthusiasm for union with Greece, and it has since transpired that great pressure was exercised on some of the delegates who

shared in that vote. Some, doubtless, have been bought by bribes, each week's steamer bringing considerable sums to my Greek colleague for this special purpose. Last week he received two parcels, one of 1,000 and another of 1,500 Napoleons, and I do not make this assertion without being able to substantiate it. Whether these sums are sent by the Committee in Athens or by the Government, I cannot say, but I have reason to believe that the former remit their contributions to the Chiefs through other channels and not through the Consul, who would necessarily be the treasurer of his own Government. In spite, therefore, of the liberal use of money, which is the most powerful of arguments with those whom it reaches, the idea of union with Greece has not much hold on the people, though there is less opposition to it than there was a year ago. As I have often had occasion to point out, it numbers some formidable opponents, especially among the Sphakians, as to whom the formula of "Crete for the Cretans" best expresses their aspirations, while with many experienced old Chiefs it is an article of faith that the cry of union with Greece has always brought them ruin. This, I believe, to be at the bottom of much of the opposition to that policy, and that if there was an assurance that Europe was favourable to it, it would meet with general and hearty acquiescence, but that whatever enthusiasm would be called forth would spring from the feeling of deliverance which it brought from Turkish rule.

The Committee seems now to be in this dilemma: viz., that in refusing to listen to the exhortations of Greece, by demanding autonomy under Turkey, they are rejecting the only foreign aid held out to them; while, on the other hand, by accepting that aid, and following that advice, they may run counter to the policy of the Great Powers, who have hitherto shown themselves hostile to the annexation of the island to Greece. It is certain that, without help of some kind, the Cretans are unequal to the task of achieving their independence, as, if the gates of the maritime towns are closed against them for a single week, famine would be knocking at their doors. Three months hence, when their own harvests will begin to be gathered in, they will cease to be dependent on supplies from the towns, but at present they are living from hand to mouth and suffering great privations.

The Government is gradually withdrawing its troops and civil functionaries from their usual stations, so that now in the western half of the island they have abandoned all the country, and nearly all the blockhouses erected at so much cost, except the garrison towns of Rethymo and Canea, and the fortresses of Izeddin, in the Bay of Suda, Grabusa, Kissamos, Kastelli, Franko Kastelli, with Vamos, in Apokorona, where two battalions are centered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 32.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 18, 1878.

A DOCUMENT has just been left at this Consulate, sent by the Cretan Committee, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose. It declares that inasmuch as no answer has been returned by the Porte to their demands, they break off all negotiations with the Commissioners and appeal to the Great Powers, whom they intreat to take the Cretan question into their consideration at the approaching Conference, with a view to its final solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Declaration of Cretan Committee breaking off Negotiations with the Commissioners, and appealing to the Great Powers for the Settlement of the Cretan Question.

(Traduction.)

L'ASSEMBLÉE Générale des Crétois, prenant en considération :—

A. Que la Sublime Porte n'ayant pas encore donné aucune réponse, quoique six jours déjà ont dépassé le délai convenu, aux demandes soumises à son Envoyé Extraordinaire Costaki Adossédes Pacha, par sa requête en date du Janvier, 1878, savoir :—

(*a.*) Régime de "self-government" et autonomie complète.
(*b.*) Le Chef du pouvoir exécutif soit élu par le peuple.
(*c.*) Payer au Gouvernement Impérial un tribut annuel de 500,000 piastres.
(*d.*) Les ci-dessus concessions être garanties par les Grandes Puissances.

B. Que le silence de la Sublime Porte équivaut à un refus, et que son intention n'est autre que de remettre la solution de la question de notre patrie jusqu'à ce que les questions pendantes de l'Orient soient résolues, et que de cette manière elle devienne maîtresse de régler la question Crétoise comme bon lui semblerait.

C. Que ce but de la Sublime Porte une fois réalisé aura pour conséquence la ruine du pays, parcequ'elle a toujours montré des dispositions malveillantes contre le peuple Chrétien de la Crète, et qu'elle a toujours foulé aux pieds tous les droits et priviléges à lui accordés.

Après mûre réflexion et débat, décrète :—

A. Rompre toute négociation avec le Gouvernement Impérial.

B. Fait appel aux Grandes Puissances, confiant la solution de la question Crétoise à leur justice et philanthropie.

C. Supplie les Grandes Puissances de prendre en considération dans le prochain Congrès Européen les programmes du peuple Chrétien de la Crète, conformément aux luttes sacrées de 1821, 1841, et 1866.

Fait à Argyropolis, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Février, 1878.

(Signé) L'Assemblée-Générale de Crète.

No. 33.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 1.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying despatch which I have received from Commander Grenfell, R.N., Her Majesty's Naval Attaché at this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Commander Grenfell to Lord Odo Russell.

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 27, 1878.

A REPORT having been circulated that a German squadron was being prepared to be sent to Turkish waters, the German Government have thought it necessary to publish yesterday an official denial, pointing out that it is only the usual fitting out of an iron-clad squadron of four ships for the annual exercise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. GRENFELL, *Commander, R.N., Naval Attaché.*

No. 34.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, February 25, 1878.*

ADVERTING to my reports of the 18th and 21st current, Nos. 9 and 10, Political, I have now the honour to transmit copy of a despatch received from Vice-Consul Onófrio by the Austrian mail steamer of this morning, the contents of which are interesting.

The Greek invaders of Turkish territory on the side of Arta have met with the fate which their unprincipled aggression deserved.

2. Within the last few days this immediate neighbourhood has become the scene of spirit-stirring events.

In my report of the 21st instant, No. 10, I mentioned that the Greek mail steamer had quite unexpectedly arrived here from the Piræus on the night of the 18th, having on board from 80 to 100 Albanians, who, on being landed, placed themselves in communication with the "Revolutionary Committee," from whom, I have since learnt, they received a *douceur* of 120 francs each.

These men were principally Chimariots, under the leadership of a "Capitanio," and had for some time back been employed as miners at Laurium, and as day labourers in and about Athens.

But, I ought also to have reported, that by the Italian mail steamer from Brindisi, which also arrived on the 18th instant, we had an importation of some seventy Garibaldians, some of them in uniform, and who made no secret of their intention of lending their aid towards promoting a revolutionary movement in Epirus.

These individuals, joined by Albanians, congregated in Corfu, and by volunteers, natives of the island, forming in all a body of 300 strong, succeeded, during the night of the 23rd instant, in landing on the opposite coast, in the vicinity of the light-house, over against Carigoli, at the entrance of the north channel, and at a spot between the Turkish fort of Santa Quaranta and the Delvino range of mountains.

It further appears that during the night of the 24th (Sunday) an additional body of volunteers, 700 strong, was landed at the place of rendezvous from the Greek steamer "Eptanisos," and respecting this fact there can be no doubt, for, according to private advices from Santa Maura, I was informed that on Friday last (22nd instant) the "Eptanisos" was at Ithaca, with the above number of adventurers on board, while she came in here from the northward a few hours ago quite empty of passengers, and is now in port!

As to how far all this is consistent with Greek, and more especially with Corfiote neutrality, I do not care to express an opinion.

3. It was rumoured in town, yesterday forenoon, that the associated volunteers were to commence their forward march immediately after mass, and sure enough, since I began writing, tidings have been brought to me that they have already attacked and carried the fort of Delvino, which, if true, will place them in possession of artillery, an arm with which they were at the outset wholly unprovided. The place is said to have been garrisoned by a detachment of seventy Turks, who fled, *sans coup férir*. The Greek flag was immediately hoisted on the fort.

I was informed yesterday, by the Turkish Consul-General here, that at various points on the opposite coast, from Santi Quaranta downwards, a force consisting of about 2,000 regulars and irregulars is stationed. The invaders have turned their flank; and should they succeed in rising the Chimariots in any number, Abdi Pasha, who, when I last heard of him, was down at Arta—a distance of four days' travel from this fresh scene of combat—will have hard work to expel them from the province.

If the movement goes ahead, and is joined by any number of the Christian population, God help the aged, the infirm, and the defenceless women and children.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, February 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches relative to the affair at Paleo Panagia, I have the honour to report that, according to intelligence from a Turkish source, it would appear that some 238 insurgents and 500 Turkish irregulars took part in the engagement of the 14th instant. It is also added that the whole band would have been cut to pieces, but for the timely appearance on the field of a body of Evzones, who covered its retreat.

It appears, moreover, that after another equally unsuccessful encounter on Saturday, 16th instant, the band was eventually constrained to recross the frontier, after severe losses.

Four volunteers who returned from Carvassarà on Wednesday last, state that the incursion resulted in a complete failure. Judging, on the other hand, from the silence of the Committee, by whom the raid in question was stirred up, there is every reason to believe that the Turkish version of the affair, as well as the account of the volunteers alluded to, is correct.

It is said here that Demetrio Scalzojanneis* was not killed, as reported, by the Turks, but wounded, and is now at Carvassarà.

2. If the reports circulated here by the disappointed agitators deserve more credence than heretofore, another expedition on a larger scale is contemplated. But then, again, the Turks are preparing for any emergency, as arrivals of reinforcements, both from Janina and Constantinople, are announced from Prevesa. Indeed, a Turkish iron-clad cast anchor outside Prevesa yesterday morning, and landed some 800 troops, and sailed last night for an unknown destination.

3. Dr. Manto, the Director of the Military Hospital at Athens, arrived at Carvassarà on Monday last, charged with the organization of the ambulance service.

4. I am informed that another batch of thirty-two volunteers from the villages of this island was this week enlisted, and sent by the Committee to the frontier.

5. The Greek steam-ship "Eptanisos" is expected here in the course of next week with heavy guns to be mounted on the fort of Santa Maura.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 35.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 30. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a map drawn by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall, indicating the tract of Turkish territory occupied by the Servian forces and the line of demarcation agreed upon between the belligerents during the armistice which commenced on the 31st ultimo at 7 P.M.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 35.

Vice-Consul Marshall to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Belgrade, February 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose you a map, showing the country occupied by the Servians at the close of the war, and the line of demarcation brought by a Russian officer from Adrianople. The tracing is from Keipert's map, scale $\frac{1}{300000}$.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LIONEL MARSHALL.

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* A noted brigand, formerly associated with the late General Grivas, and referred to as killed in a former report.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Map.

No. 36.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March .)

(No. 170. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February* 26, 1878.

M. DEPRETIS, in speaking to me yesterday upon the reported conditions of peace exacted by Russia from Turkey, and which his Excellency considers will, if carried out, almost put an end to the Turkish Empire in Europe, expressed the opinion that under these circumstances, Turkey being reduced to a mere shadow and evidently not strong enough to keep the waterway through the Straits and Bosphorus, that, instead of that passage remaining closed to ships of war, as at present, it would be more in the interests of the other Powers that it should be declared open to the navies of all Powers.

His Excellency informed me that he was still without any further communications from the Austrian Government relative to the time of meeting of the Conference, the bases on which the negotiations were to be founded, and how the different Powers proposed to be represented, whether by one or two Plenipotentiaries, on all of which points he was most anxious for information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 37.

The Marquis d'Harcourt to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

Dear Lord Derby, *Ambassade de France, à Londres, February* 28, 1878.

PRAY send me back the inclosed copy of M. Waddington's telegram after perusal, as I have no other.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) D'HARCOURT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Substance of Telegram from M. Waddington to the Marquis d'Harcourt, February 27, 1878.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Count de Vogüé, dated February 27, it is believed that the definitive conditions of peace, settled at Constantinople, are less severe than those which had been announced. Russia seems to have made some concessions in the sense of the objections of Austria.

Similar information has been received from General Leflô. Russia is understood to have made known yesterday at Constantinople, that she abandoned the demand for the cession of a part of the Turkish fleet, and it was thought at St. Petersburgh that peace might be signed to-day or to-morrow. With Austria also the relations are more friendly, not that any understanding has been aimed at as to the constitution of Bulgaria, and the duration of the Russian occupation, but the matter seems likely to be negotiated in a mutual spirit of conciliation, and with the desire of arriving at an agreement.

No. 38.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 1.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, February* 28, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, reporting the state of affairs at Gallipoli, and the steps taken by the Turkish Commander to put the Bulair lines in a more efficient state of defence.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Extracts.) *"Agincourt," at Gallipoli, February* 20, 1878.

2. Suleiman Pasha, as my Lords are probably aware, has been sent a prisoner to Seddul Bahr, the fort at the entrance of the Dardanelles, marked on the chart as the "Castle of Europe," and the Pasha of Chanak, I am told, has been made responsible for his safe custody. Suleiman's successor has not as yet been appointed, and the command of the Bulair lines devolves temporarily on Zabbit Pasha, who, I am glad to say, is shewing some energy in putting the place in a more efficient state of defence by digging rifle-pits and shelter-trenches, and repairing the roads in the neighbourhood of the lines. Indeed, he commenced a new road from Gallipoli, to connect with the coast road from Bulair, on the right of the lines, the day after Suleiman left; and I notice that the number of men employed on it is very large.

* * * * * * * *

4. I have the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a letter I addressed to the Vice-Consul at Gallipoli, requesting him to pay the port dues claimed by local authorities, for the "Sir Bevis," and I also forward the copy of a certificate I furnished the master of that collier with, on his representing to me that the insurance of his ship would be vitiated, by his having entered the Dardanelles, contrary to the terms of his charter party.

5. By the latest intelligence, the Russians appear to have fallen back from Kavak (at the head of the Gallipoli Peninsula), and are now occupying the line from Sharkoi, on the Sea of Marmora, to Yenikoi, and Kadikoi; and along that line they are reported to have collected a force of some 11,000 men. It is also said that they are entrenching themselves at Yenikoi, and have brought up some heavy guns there; and further, 30,000 men are believed to be collected at Keshan. These troops are represented as being very badly off for provisions.

6. No attempt has been made to embark a force either in the Gulf of Xeros, or the Sea of Marmora, and the greatest vigilance is being exercised on both sides of the Peninsula in order to prevent one landing, in case the attempt should be made.

7. The turret ship, "Hifzi Rahman," is going to cruize in the Gulf of Xeros for fourteen days. This vessel is commanded by Hassan Bey (a very intelligent Turk), and she seems in very good order.

* * * * * * * *

8. An Austrian squadron of three iron-clads, one bearing an Admiral's flag, and a gun-boat were at anchor at Syra, when she ("John Ponder"), left.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Rear-Admiral Commerell to Vice-Consul Odoni.

Sir, *"Agincourt," February* 19, 1878.

I DESIRE you will be so good as to pay all proper charges due on the British steamer "Sir Bevis," now lying here with Government coal on board, as I wish to

dispatch her to Besika Bay as soon as possible; observing that, on the part of the Admiralty, I will relieve you of all responsibility in connection with the disbursements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 38.

Certificate.

I HAVE to certify to the owners that the British steamer "Sir Bevis," with Government coal on board, was directed to proceed from Besika Bay to Gallipoli by my order, contrary to the protest of her master; and that having discharged all the coals required by Her Majesty's ships at this port, she is being sent back again this day to Besika, to follow the directions of the Senior Naval Officer at that anchorage.

Given under my hand, on board the "Agincourt," at Gallipoli, this 19th February, 1878.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral.*

No. 39.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 278.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul Green, dated 27th:—

"I am informed that yesterday, at first meeting, Montenegrin Delegates consented to acknowledge armistice since 31st ultimo."

No. 40.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Trebizond reports Turks completely evacuated Erzeroum, which has been occupied by Russians.

No. 41.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 1.)

(No.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 1, 1878.*

I LEARN that the Russian Plenipotentiaries, while pressing the demands that Bulgaria should include (?) Dédéagatch and part of coast, are willing to allow Turks a military road across new Principality, to be used exclusively for the passage of troops. The railway to Mitrovitza will also remain in possession of Bulgaria.

No. 42.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, March 1, 1878, 6 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has telegraphed to Count Beust, on 27th ultimo, secretly and confidentially, that he hears Grand Duke Nicholas has said that the Russian troops should enter Constantinople only by permission and as friends of Turkey. The Austrian Government would much regret that the Porte should compromise itself by such an invitation to the Grand Duke or to the Russian troops, by agreeing to the cession of Beikos, or by the conclusion of an alliance with Russia. Such concessions would, in their opinion, tend to forestall and prejudice the discussions of the Conference, especially as regards the limits to be assigned to the new Province of Bulgaria.

Count Zichy has received instructions in this sense, and you are authorized to support his representations if you think there is occasion.

Have you heard anything of the cession of Beikos to which Count Andrassy refers?

It is needless to say that the cession to Russia of a post on the shore of the Bosphorus is a measure to which England, and it is believed other Powers, would have the gravest possible objection.

No. 43.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 1, 1878.*

THE Persian Minister called upon me by appointment this afternoon, and stated that he had received orders by telegraph to make to me the following communication:—

Persia had long had causes of complaint against Turkey, and had waited for a favourable occasion to claim her rights. The occasion presented itself when the war broke out between Russia and the Porte. No one could doubt from the beginning what the issue of the war would be. But from the first commencement of the struggle the British Government had advised that of Persia to observe neutrality. The Persian Government had been assured that if they took this course, the influence of England would be employed, as soon as the matters at issue were settled, to obtain satisfaction for the grievances of Persia. Persia had reckoned on this promise, and gave up the idea of interference in the war. She had run some risks in so doing. Now that the war had come to an end, the Persian Government addressed themselves to that of England, thinking the occasion favourable for a settlement of their differences with Turkey, by referring them to the coming Conference.

The principal subject of complaint mentioned by Malcolm Khan was the question of the frontier.

I said in reply that I did not know what subjects the other Powers might think it right to submit to discussion in the Conference. It was impossible, therefore, for me, in my present state of information, to give a definite answer to the proposal of the Persian Government. I asked whether they had addressed a similar application to the other Powers, and what opinion had been expressed by them in reply.

Malcom Khan promised to inquire upon this point.

I thought it right to add that the advice which I had given on behalf of Her Majesty's Government had been prompted by a regard to the real interests of Persia as much as, if not more than, by any consideration for those of the Turkish Empire, as will be sufficiently shown by a reference to the despatches in which my conversations upon this subject have been recorded.

Malcom Khan did not attempt to dispute my observations, but he dilated on the importance of Persia as the second barrier against Russian encroachment in the East. Turkey, he said, which formed the first barrier, is now virtually destroyed for that purpose. He trusted that England would not, by refusing the present request of the Persian Government, throw them into the arms of Russia. He expressed a hope that on a later occasion I might be able to give him a definite reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 44.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 108. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 1, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed confidentially by Count Beust that the Austrian Government has learnt that the Grand Duke Nicholas has said that, in order to oppose the policy of this country, it will be arranged that the Russian troops shall only enter Constantinople by the permission of the Sultan, and as friends of Turkey.

His Excellency stated that Austria would deeply regret that the Porte should compromise its position by taking such steps as inviting the Grand Duke or his troops to enter Constantinople, ceding Beikos, or concluding an alliance with Russia, or especially defining the limits of Bulgaria, as by so doing they would prejudge in various directions the decisions of the Conference.

He added that instructions to this effect had been sent to Count Zichy, and expressed the opinion that it might be advisable to have the attention of the Porte called also by Her Majesty's Government to the danger that it would incur in following such a course.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 45.

Consul T. F. Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, February 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the inclosed copy of a despatch I yesterday addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting the recall of Sabri Pasha, the Governor General of this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Consul T. F. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, February 8, 1878.*

THE announcement officially notified of Sabri Pasha's removal from the Governor-Generalship of this province, is a subject of very general—I may almost say universal—regret here. His Excellency quits office, after nearly two years successful administration of the same, having, by the urbanity of his manners and intimate knowledge of the French language, no less than by his acknowledged efficiency and experience, acquired, during a period of almost unexampled difficulty and trial, and amongst all classes of this community, a popularity and influence which it has rarely fallen to the lot of a provincial administrator in Turkey to establish.

Owing to the presence here of a considerable number of fugitives from the seat of war in a state of abject destitution (among whom are Circassians and Zeibecks of the very worst repute), as well as to the generally impoverished condition of the country, and non-existence of anything like efficient police control, the present does not appear to be a favourable moment for the recall of an estimable and much esteemed Governor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. F. READE.

No. 46.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 128.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 125 of the 20th instant, in which I reported having mentioned to M. Delyanni that I had heard that the Greek steamer "Panhellenion" had left for Crete, I have the honour to state that I at the same time told his Excellency that I had been informed that the master was a man noted for blockade-running in 1866-7, and that M. Delyanni asked me if I know who had engaged him, he having already remarked that there must be some unknown agency at work for the raising of bands and for furnishing them with funds, his object evidently being to clear the Government of all responsibility in the matter. I therefore telegraphed to Mr. Binney, Her Majesty's Consul at Syra, who had, in a letter dated the 13th instant, informed me that he understood that Captain Sourmeli had left for the Piræus to take charge of the "Panhellenion," to run her backwards and forwards to Crete.

I have now the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of an extract of a letter to me from Mr. Binney respecting the appointment of Captain Sourmeli and respecting the supposed conveyance of ammunition from Greece to Crete.

I presume that Mr. Binney, in mentioning the conduct ("la manière d'agir") of the Greek Consul at Canea, refers to a report, which he has communicated privately to me, that the Greek Consul at Canea is distributing money liberally in order to gain votes in favour of the annexation of Crete to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Consul Binney to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Syra, February 20, 1878.*

FROM what I can learn about the appointment of Captain Sourmeli to the "Panhellenion," it appears that all the other captains in the Greek Company's service refused to go in the vessel on account of her being much slower in speed than the Turkish cruizers off the coast of Crete; hence the Greek Company have, after holding a council together over-night, sent for Sourmeli the next morning immediately after his arrival in the "Omonia" from the Piræus, and asked him if he would go and take charge of the "Panhellenion" and run her to Crete. Sourmeli at once accepted the proposal and left immediately for the Piræus.

It seems that all the Greek steamers were made over to the Government when the Greek troops entered Turkish territory, and that the "Panhellenion" was given over to the Cretan Committee at Athens, who, it is said, acting under instructions from the Government, arranged to send her with ammunition and volunteers to Crete.

Her first commander, Codgia, refused to go in her to Crete, but the Government, it is said, threatened to remove his stripes (he being an old naval officer) if he did not go. Hence he made one trip which, I believe, was not very successful, owing to the presence of Turkish cruizers.

Finally, it seems pretty certain that although the Greek Company ostensibly engaged the services of Sourmeli, it was upon behalf of the Cretan Committee at Athens, acting under secret orders from the Greek Government. This is more or less proved, I think, from "la manière d'agir" of the Greek Consul at Canea.

Sourmeli receives his regular pay from the Greek Company, but is compensated for the Cretan voyages by an extra allowance from the Cretan Committee for each trip.

The other night as our cable-ship was coming here from Cerigo, a small brig collided with her, and although the captain of the former hailed the vessel and wished to render all assistance in case she was seriously damaged, the little craft made off as fast as possible without saying a word, which tends to prove she was loaded with ammunition for Crete, particularly as the "John Pender" heard at Cerigo that two sailing craft, with ammunition, &c., for Crete, were waiting an opportunity to get there.

The preceding is all I know about the blockade-running to Crete, about which it is at all times difficult to learn the real truth, even supposing the steamers sailed from here, which is not the case.

No. 47.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 122 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of an extract from a further letter to me from Mr. Wood, Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, respecting the raising of bands of volunteers and their departure from that port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Patras, February* 20, 1878.

IN my last I told you that volunteers were being enrolled in this place for the purpose of fighting in the provinces of Epirus and Thessaly. A great number of rough characters were collected, to the great alarm of our local authorities, who telegraphed several times to Athens to have them shipped off without any delay. There was a report that two Turkish iron-clads had been seen on their way to the Turkish ports, and this delayed their departure. Last night, however, the Greek steamer "Eptanisos" took them all to Corfu, where people will be astonished to see such a mob arrive. There are 720 men in all, of whom 200 are Chimariotts, and the remainder riff-raff, from this place and other towns. I cannot learn that they committed any irregularities beyond firing off their guns and pistols during the day and night.

It seems that they are to make their way to the coast of Epirus, opposite Corfu. Besides these volunteers, there are 160 men collected by a certain Trifaki, a Cretan in the Greek service, but who has given in his resignation for the time. He is anxious to get these men to Crete, and probably will go there in the "Eptanises," when she comes back.

The agricultural class is very busy cultivating the vines, and wages are up to 4 fr. per day. It seems a pity to have taken so many young fellows away from such useful occupation.

No. 48.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 130.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 23, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 119 and 120 of the 19th instant and to my No. 127 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have this day received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Larissa, in which he informs me that, he being unwell, Mr. Longworth had undertaken to bring the contents of my telegram to the notice of the Turkish authorities as to the women and children at Platano being conveyed to a place of safety before it was attacked, and that they had immediately taken the necessary measures in the matter.

I propose mentioning this to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the next time I see his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Vice-Consul Suter to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Larissa, February* 20, 1878.

IN reply to your telegram, marked Private, received yesterday, at 6 P.M., inquiring whether I could prevail upon the Turkish authorities to allow the women and children at Platano to be conveyed to a place of safety, before the insurgents in that village are attacked, I beg to inform you that, not being well myself, Mr. Longworth, now on special service in Thessaly, kindly volunteered to bring the contents of your telegram before the notice of the authorities, who immediately took the necessary measures in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

No. 49.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 23, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram to me of the 18th instant, and to my despatch No. 124 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to state that I regret that I have been unable to learn anything as to the proceedings of the Greeks on the frontiers of Epirus except from what information Sir Charles Schright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, has conveyed to your Lordship in his despatch marked No. 9, Political, of the 18th instant, copy of which he has forwarded to me.

As some of the irregular bands formed in Greece have adopted a sort of uniform it is not altogether surprising if the Turks take them for regular troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 50.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 2.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Février*, 1878.

JE continue les renseignements que je vous ai donné par ma dépêche du $\frac{9}{21}$ courant sur l'insurrection Crétoise.

Le mouvement insurrectionnel, d'après les dernières nouvelles, a pris de telles dimensions, la prise d'armes a été si générale dans les derniers jours, qu'il n'y a plus que quelques endroits isolés des provinces orientales de l'île, où restent encore quelque semblant d'autorités Ottomanes. Vous savez déjà que les autorités civiles et militaires du district de Sphakia ont dû quitter leurs postes et se rendre à la Canée. Le Caïmacam de Kissamo reste enfermé dans le fort Castelli. L'Eparque de Selino et deux compagnies de troupes n'occupent à l'heure qu'il est qu'un petit coin de terre du village de Paliochora. Le drapeau Hellénique flotte partout. Vendredi et Samedi dernier on le voyait de la Canée même, à une demi-heure de distance, déployé sur le camp des Chefs Spiridaki et Mavrogenni, composé de 300 insurgés. Une heure plus loin les drapeaux nationaux étaient arborés sur les auberges de Platania, où les Chefs Yannidardaki et Prémaki avaient établi leurs quartiers.

Le Chef Hadzimichali ayant occupé le village de Fournée, à un quart-d'heure du château du Gouverneur d'Alikiano, obligea celui-ci d'en éloigner toutes les troupes régulières, et de réduire la garde du château à un petit nombre de zaptiehs seulement.

La conduite des insurgés à l'endroit de la population Ottomane de l'île continue d'être des plus exemplaires. On ne saurait malheureusement prétendre que celle des Ottomans soit aussi digne d'éloges. Tout au contraire, les bandes de voleurs qui depuis quelques mois se sont formées dans les grandes centres de l'île poursuivent toujours leur œuvre de dévastation. L'asile sûr et facile qu'elles trouvent à toute heure dans les forteresses, après leurs équipées fructueuses, ne fait que les enhardir.

Quant à l'Assemblée Générale, après avoir en vain attendu la réponse de la Porte à ses demandes, elle vient de proclamer l'union de l'île avec le Royaume de Grèce par le Décret ci-joint en traduction.

En vous autorisant de faire des renseignements qui précèdent l'usage que vous jugerez nécessaire, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 50.

L'ASSEMBLEE Générale des Crétois, considérant:

Que la Sublime Porte n'a encore rien répondu à nos demandes formulées dans une requête en date du Janvier 1878 à son Commissaire Extraordinaire Costi Adossidi Pacha, lesquelles étaient les suivantes:—

1. Régime d'autonomie complète et de "self-government;"
2. Un Chef du pouvoir exécutif élu par le peuple;
3. Un impôt de 500,000 piastres par an que l'île paierait à la Porte à titre de tribut de vassalité;
4. L'accomplissement de ces vœux garanti par les Grandes Puissances;

Et que six jours se sont écoulés depuis l'expiration du délai convenu pour répondre à nos demandes;

Que le silence gardé par la Sublime Porte équivaut à un refus et qu'en temporisant ainsi, elle a en vue de laisser le sort de notre patrie dans l'incertitude, jusqu'au jour où les questions relatives aux affaires générales d'Orient seront résolues, afin que le Gouvernement Ottoman soit libre alors de régler nos affaires à sa guise;

Que ce dessein de la Porte se réalise, il sera funeste à la Crète, attendu que la Porte a constamment témoigné les dispositions les moins bienveillantes à l'égard de la population Chrétienne de notre île, et qu'elle a toujours foulé aux pieds les immunités et les droits stipulés en leur faveur;

Après discussion et mûre délibération—

Décrète:

1. Toutes négociations avec la Porte seront suspendues;
2. Appel est faite aux Grandes Puissances, à l'équité et à l'humanité desquelles nous nous en remettons pour la solution de la question Crétoise;
3. Prière est adressée à ces mêmes Puissances de prendre en considération, dans le Congrès Européen qui va se réunir, les déclarations solennelles des Chrétiens de la Crète et les luttes héroïques soutenues par eux en 1821, en 1841, et en 1866.

Fait à Argyropolis, le 3 Février, 1878.

L'Assemblée-Générale des Crétois,
(L.S.) Les Membres.
(Suivent 180 signatures.)

Pour copie conforme même date:
Le Président,
(Signé) Joseph Hanji Bourboubaki.
Les Vice-Présidents,
(Signé) A. G. Sythakas.
Th. Mavridaky.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
(Signé) Ch. Mavroudi.

No. 51.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 2.*)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Février*, 1878.

LE Consul de Sa Majesté à Volo vient de m'envoyer un rapport dont vous trouverez ci-joint la traduction.

Les actes de violence qui y sont relatés empruntent une gravité exceptionnelle au caractère de ceux qui les ont commis. En effet, ce ne sont plus des Bachi-Bozouks et des Zéibecs qui se sont livrés à ces excès, mais bien des soldats de l'armée régulière Ottomane, comprenant le régiment commandé par Muhliss Pacha.

A peine arrivés à Volo les soldats susmentionnés ont brisé à coups de hache les portes de plus de quarante maisons, et ont enlevé tous les objets qu'ils y ont trouvés.

Les propriétaires de ces maisons ont dû se retirer dans les villages, pour se mettre à l'abri de ces violences, et leurs maisons sont occupées par les soldats. On attends l'arrivée de troupes irrégulières pour les envoyer dans les villages, afin d'y poursuivre l'œuvre du pillage et de la destruction.

Les représentations adressées au Gouvernement militaire de la province n'ont produit aucun résultat, et une grande panique règne dans ces malheureuses provinces.

Des faits pareils n'ont pas besoin de commentaires. En les signalant aux Cabinets Européens le Gouvernement Hellénique ne saurait dissimuler que la continuation de cet état de choses fera naître des complications qu'il ne serait pas en son pouvoir de prévenir.

Veuillez donner lecture de la présente, ainsi que de l'annexe, à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et me rapporter le résultat de votre entretien.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

P.S.—Vous trouverez ci-joint traduction d'un télégramme qui m'est parvenu à l'instant et que je vous prie également de communiquer.

T. P. D.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Report from the Greek Consul at Volo, dated February 9, 1878.

(Traduction.)

MARDI soir un régiment de troupes régulières Ottomanes commandé par Muhliss Pacha est venu ici de Pharsala et a reçu l'ordre de camper dans le quartier de Baxédés, à Volo.

Les habitants des maisons de ce quartier les ayant abandonnées pour se réfugier dans les villages, les soldats ont brisé à coups de hache les portes de plus de quarante maisons et ont enlevé tout ce qu'elles contenaient en fait d'habits, couvertures, et autres objets. Les soldats continuent à occuper ces maisons. Je ne connais pas les noms de tous les propriétaires, mais il est incontestable que toutes les maisons appartenant à des Chrétiens ont été pillées. Ces faits ont été portés à la connaissance des Consuls et du Gouverneur Militaire, mais aucune suite n'a été donnée aux représentations faites à cet égard.

En général tous les habitants de Pélion sont considérés comme belligérants, et on attend ici la concentration des irréguliers pour les envoyer dans les villages et saccager hommes et biens. La force seule pourrait arrêter la férocité des Musulmans et prévenir des catastrophes irréparables. Les habitants sont décidés de se défendre au prix de leur sang, mais l'étendue est grande et les Musulmans sont maîtres de la mer, ce qui leur permet de débarquer en nombre considérable et exterminer les habitants sans épargner les femmes et les enfants.

Toute l'autorité est concentré en ce moment entre les mains du Gouverneur Militaire, qui ne tient compte ni des droits des sujets étrangers ni de nos représentations.

Les biens et les propriétés des sujets Hellènes ne sont pas respectés, et mes protestations demeurent sans résultats. Parmi les bestiaux enlevés par des soldats Ottomans, ils se trouvent des mulets appartenant à un sujet Hellène. J'en ai réclamé la restitution, mais je n'ai pu obtenir aucune réponse à ma demande, et, pour comble d'arbitraire, Redjib Pacha est parti aujourd'hui emportant les mulets en question. Telle est la situation. J'ai cru nécessaire de vous la dépeindre afin que les mesures nécessaires soient prises.

Traduction d'un télégramme du Consul de Sa Majesté à Volo:—

"J'apprends en ce moment que des Guégnes et des Zéibeks sont entrés dans les villages insurgés Venetou, Keramidi, et Bulgarini, et se livront à des massacres et des pillages.

"Les habitants sollicitent la protection des Consuls, mais il sera impossible de les sauver. Le Gouverneur Militaire est parti pour l'intérieur. Il se rend dans ces villages pour consommer l'œuvre de la destruction."

No. 52.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 2.)

(No. 107. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, February* 26, 1878.

IN the confidential print, telegram section, Sunday and Monday, February 10 and 11, page 7, I observe a telegram from your Lordship, dated the 18th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, which refers to a statement reported by Lord Odo Russell, in his telegram of the 17th instant, to have been made by Prince Bismarck, on which your Lordship remarks that "it seems to indicate that Germany

would desert Austria should the alliance of the three Emperors break up. Moreover, the mention of the Trentino implies that Italy would join Russia against Austria."

As I have not received a copy of Lord Odo Russell's telegram referred to, and can find no trace of it in the confidential print, I am under a disadvantage offering any comments, which may perhaps be expected from me, in regard to that part of Prince Bismarck's statement which relates to the country to which I am accredited.

I cannot but feel, also, that I must appear presumptuous if I venture to express an opinion respecting Italian policy in opposition to so high an authority as his Highness; but, at the same time, I am bound, at the risk of being thought over-credulous, and notwithstanding all that has been and is said to the contrary, to repeat my belief that the policy of the Italian Government has been, and continues to be, perfectly loyal and straightforward, both in regard to Eastern affairs in general and towards Austria in particular. In the settlement of the Eastern question, their desire is to contribute, as far as they are able, to prevent Russia acquiring such a position as may make her mistress over the interests of Europe in what used to be Turkey; they consider their interests the same as those of England, and are desirous of acting with Her Majesty's Government in defence of them at the Conference. The language of the Italian Prime Minister has never varied on this subject, and he appeals to me, almost every time I see him, to know whether I cannot yet inform him of the views of Her Majesty's Government in reference to the programme to be followed in the Conference. With regard to Austria, his Excellency's language has been equally clear and explicit. He does not wish Austria to extend her frontiers, but, constituted as she is, the Italian Government are desirous of maintaining with her the most cordial relations, and, in the event of Austria going to war with Russia, my conviction is that she need be under no apprehension of hostility from Italy. It is impossible to suppose that, without some far greater attraction being held out to her than the acquisition of the Trentino, Italy will take part in the destruction of a Power in whose preservation she has so much interest, particularly when that Power would be replaced by two such neighbours as Germany and Russia.

If this opinion is erroneous, it seems at all events, from Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 19th instant (Confidential Print, telegram section, Wednesday, February 20, p. 3), to be shared by Count Andrassy.

If the Italian Government has not shown a tendency to depart from a passive policy in defence of the interests which they hold in common with England and Austria, they may possibly excuse their reticence by the fact that no formal communication has as yet been addressed to them on the subject. All that has passed indeed in reference to this matter, so far as I am aware, has been done by me on my own initiative, and it does not appear to me that the result was quite discouraging.

It is true that in reply to the report I made to your Lordship of M. Depretis' language on the occasion in question, I received your Lordship's orders to state that Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to act with Italy and Austria, and to ask if the Italian Government would send their fleet to Constantinople with that of England; but before I received those orders the circumstances had undergone an important change; the news of the signature of the armistice had arrived, and M. Depretis, not suspecting any more than anyone else apparently, that perfidy and treachery could have been brought to the extreme lengths to which Russia has carried them, considered the immediate danger which he had in view, when he spoke to me two days previously, viz., the seizure of Constantinople as passed, and consequently that there was no longer any necessity for united action to prevent it.

The Italian Government, it is true, have not since followed the example of Her Majesty's Government, and sent a part of their fleet to Constantinople, but the reasons for this, as already explained, are that their Minister at Constantinople reported that Italian subjects were in no danger; that they did not wish to give the Russians a pretext for occupying the capital; that they were not disposed to go there against the will of the Porte, nor had they the power of doing so even had they had the will, and they could not separate themselves from the other Continental Powers in this matter.

The language which M. Depretis has recently held to me is perfectly consistent with his former expressions, and so strongly did he speak to me on one occasion last summer, that after reporting it (see my Very Confidential despatch No. 265 of the 30th June), I observed that your Lordship would perhaps expect me to state whether anything more than diplomatic support was to be expected from Italy, in preventing Russia getting possession of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, and I ventured to express my opinion on this subject, and while pointing out the difficulty in which Italy stood

No. 52*.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 26, 1878.*

M. DEPRETIS, in speaking to me yesterday upon the reported conditions of peace exacted by Russia from Turkey, and which his Excellency considers will, if carried out, almost put an end to the Turkish Empire in Europe, expressed the opinion that under these circumstances Turkey being reduced to a mere shadow, and evidently not strong enough to keep the water-way through the Straits and Bosphorus, that, instead of that passage remaining closed to ships of war, as at present, it would be more to the interests of the other Powers that it should be declared open to the navies of all Powers.

His Excellency informed me that he was still without any further communications from the Austrian Government relative to the time of meeting of the Conference, the bases on which the negotiations were to be founded, or how the different Powers proposed to be represented, whether by one or two Plenipotentiaries; on all of which points he was most anxious for information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

with regard to foreign Powers, and expressing my belief in her desire to remain neutral. I concluded by saying that there were circumstances in which I could conceive her co-operating actively with England.

To suppose that Italy can wish to favour the preponderance of Russia in the East, is to suppose that she is desirous of placing her most vital interests in the hands of a Power whose ambition and rapacity has been proved to be insatiable. The interests of Italy in a free communication through the Straits and Bosphorus are second to none of any Power in Europe. On an average there are no less, according to a statement made to me a few days ago by the President of the Council, than 2,500 Italian ships which carry on trade with the Black Sea in the course of the year. There is no Power more interested than Italy, therefore, in the maintenance of the existing balance of Power amongst the maritime Powers of the Mediterranean. Is it to be supposed, therefore, that the Italian Government can wish to jeopardize all these interests, so intimately connected with her own prosperity, for the sake of acquiring a district, which would afford her no very material advantages, on her northern frontier. I own I cannot think so, and for this reason I have not been prone to attach much faith to the various reports which have for a long time been circulated as to an Italian alliance with Russia, or to believe that Italy would join that Power in attacking Austria.

No one, I think, can be more painfully impressed than is M. Depretis with the monstrosity of the terms of the peace which have now been imposed upon Turkey, and his Excellency fully appreciates the deplorable position in which Europe now finds itself, and the gravity of the danger which looms in the future, if Russia is allowed to carry out her triumph to the end.

I consider it, therefore, certain, as I said in a despatch the other day, that the frank and cordial cooperation of Italy may be looked for in the Conference in endeavouring to procure a modification of these terms; but whether more is to be expected of her must, as I also said in the same despatch, depend upon the attitude of other Powers, and especially Germany.

If Germany will really stand aside and allow the Italian Government to follow their own bent, I do not think it impossible that Italy might join an alliance with England and Austria. But there would be a very simple way, if Her Majesty's Government are desirous of the cooperation of Italy, of putting the question to the test, and that is by entering into frank and unreserved communication with the Italian Government upon the subject.

For this purpose it would be necessary that I should be furnished with the most ample instructions, specifying distinctly the points upon which Her Majesty's Government are determined to make a *casus belli*, and giving such other explanations as may be likely to be expected in a case of this kind.

Your Lordship will have seen, from Captain Ardagh's secret report, transmitted with my despatch No. 77, Secret, of the 20th ultimo, that the Italian army is now in a very efficient state. And I believe it is no exaggeration to suppose that, freed from any apprehension of being attacked on her own territory, Italy could put into the field abroad, within a very short period, an army of 200,000 men. But the finances of Italy, as every one knows, are not in a flourishing condition, and consequently to enable her to undertake a foreign war she would require pecuniary assistance from her ally, as also the means of transport.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 53.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 200. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 1, 1878.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 173 of the 18th ultimo, that M. Waddington, acting on the suggestion of Her Majesty's Government, had two days before instructed the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, by telegraph, to press upon the Russian Government the importance of assembling the Conference at once.

In answer to a question which I put to him this morning, M. Waddington told me that he had not yet received any answer from the Russian Government to the communication which he had thus made to them.

It appeared, however, that the Comte de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, had had a conversation with Prince Bismarck, in which the Prince had told him, that he also, in deference to the wishes of England and Austria, had urged Prince Gortchakow to consent to the immediate convocation of the Conference. Prince Bismarck had added that when he did this, he feared that the effect would not be good, and that, in fact, he had received a very cold answer from Prince Gortchakow.

M. Waddington observed to me that he must confess he did not look hopefully to the Conference. The Russian terms of peace appeared to him to be so diametrically opposed to the views of England and Austria, that he did not see what common ground there could be for discussion. When the Russian Plenipotentiary produced the Russo-Turkish Treaty, England and Austria would almost necessarily refuse to take it as a basis. The Conference would then in all probability break up.

M. Waddington said, in conclusion, that France would be very little inclined to take part in a Conference likely to end in such a way; though, of course, if the other Powers sent Plenipotentiaries, she would not refuse to do so also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 54.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 2.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, March 1, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, respecting the telegraph cable between Scio and Tenedos, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that my Lords would suggest that Mr. Layard should be informed that the cable from Scios to Tenedos having been laid by the Eastern Telegraph Company at the request of the Government, it will be worked by that Company, and it is therefore desirable that the Company's agents should be instructed to come to an understanding on the subject with the Director-General of the Turkish Telegraphs.

2. With reference to my letter of yesterday's date, respecting the difficulty experienced by Admiral Hornby in communicating by telegraph with Koumkaleh, my Lords are of opinion it would be very desirable that the service should be improved between the Dardanelles and Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 55.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 281. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 1, 1878.

I HAVE been informed that General Ignatieff is endeavouring to prevail upon the Turks to cede Kotur to Persia, and that there is a secret understanding with Persia that, in return, she is to make over to Russia some part of coast of Caspian. I cannot answer for the accuracy of this information, but it might be as well to make inquiries at Tehran.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 1, 1878.

I SAID to M. Orczy to-day that there was a very general belief in the public that the credit which the Austrian Government proposed to ask for, was to provide the means of occupying or taking possession of Bosnia.

His Excellency said he was aware of this being the general belief, but he very warmly repudiated its correctness.

There is, however, every day less talk on the part of the Austrian Government of resisting the pretensions of Russia.

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 1, 1878.

THE day for the meeting of the Delegations is not yet fixed. A credit for 60,000,000 florins will be asked for and probably voted, but the Austrian Reichsrath, which will have to be consulted for the means of giving effect to it, is much less certain.

No. 58.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.)
Rome, March 1, 1878.

FROM a conversation with M. Depretis to-day, I incline more than I have ever yet done to the opinion that Italy might join in an alliance with England and Austria if war should become necessary in defence of their common interests.

His Excellency made no particular declaration, but his whole tone produced this impression. He said that he thought Powers having the same interests should endeavour to agree what should be done if the Conference does not take place, and he showed great impatience at Russian procrastination.

He volunteered the statement that Italian Government intend to ask for an additional credit for the War Department.

His Excellency still considers Austrian policy mysterious.

No. 59.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 284. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 2, 1878.

PEACE has not been signed to-day, as expected; Salvet Pasha, notwithstanding instructions from Prime Minister, refusing to sign. Russians, much irritated, threaten to break off negotiations. I cannot obtain further information as to terms. Turkish Ministers complain that my telegrams are communicated to Parliament, and are afraid to give me information, and thus to expose themselves to the vengeance of the Russians. May I venture to suggest that no telegram marked "Secret" should be made public? I find unusual reserve on the part of Prime Minister with reference to negotiations with Russia, and I am not satisfied with the state of things. There is a suspicion that Russians are demanding a position on the Bosphorus, but I have no trustworthy information to confirm it, nor have I heard Beikos mentioned. Statement made to me that Russia has not insisted on demand for the surrender of Turkish iron-clads is not altogether clear or satisfactory, and I am by no means certain that the demand for at least a part of them is not maintained.

No. 60.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 2.)

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 2, 1878.

DRAGOMAN MARINITCH went two days ago to San Stefano to see after his house there, occupied by the Russians. He met General Ignatiew, who, he states, said to him: "We have a bad mark against you. I will denounce you to the authorities,

and you know you may be shot." This occurrence has caused a good deal of sensation here, and may be alluded to in newspapers.

No. 61.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 2, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

MR. LAYARD telegraphs as follows:—

[See *ante*, No. 55.]

Endeavour to find out whether this report has any foundation.

No. 61 A.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 160 A.) *Foreign Office, March 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are desirous that your Excellency should come over to this country in order that they may have the opportunity of consulting you in regard to the proposed Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 61 B.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Lyons.

(No. 171.) *Foreign Office, March 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for your information, the accompanying Memorandum of the substance of a telegram from M. Waddington to the Marquis d'Harcourt,* and which has been communicated to me by his Excellency, in regard to the probable Conditions of Peace to be signed by the Russian and Turkish Plenipotentiaries, according to information received by the French Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 62.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 38.) *Foreign Office, March 2, 1878.*

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day and left with me the despatch from his Government of which a copy is inclosed herewith,† expressing the hope that Greece would be admitted to the forthcoming Conference, to represent the grievances and aspirations of the Greek population of the Ottoman Empire.

I told M. Gennadius that this request should have the careful consideration of Her Majesty's Government, but that I could not give any definite answer upon the subject at present.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* Inclosure in No. 37.

† No.

No. 63.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 2, 1878, 7·30 P.M.*

WORK of demarkation is progressing slowly, questions having arisen about navigation of Boyana and occupation of certain points. Villages taken after 31st ultimo have not yet been evacuated. Nevertheless, satisfactory termination is expected.

No. 64.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 286.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 3, 1878.*

FOLLOWING is a repetition of No. 282:—

I learn that General Tchengirkhan, Aide-de-Camp to the Grand Duke Nicholas, has requested the Director-General of Telegraphs to send a number of Russian telegraph clerks, who have arrived this morning, to San Stefano, and to retain four for service in the office of the Black Sea Cable Company here. The Manager of the Company refuses to admit them without the consent of his superiors, to whom he has telegraphed for instructions.

No. 65.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 3, 1878.*

I HAVE reason to believe that if your Lordship could authorize me to tell the Porte that the cable contracted for by it with the Eastern Company, from the Dardanelles to Lagos, would be laid instead to Constantinople, on the same terms, it might consent to its being done. Distance is a few miles longer, but I believe terms are very favourable to the Company. Her Majesty's Government would be thus in direct communication with Constantinople.

No. 66.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 288.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 3, 1878.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the Preliminaries of Peace will be signed this evening, and that the iron-clads will not be given up, the Sultan having refused to surrender them. It is still doubtful whether Salonica will be included in Bulgaria.

No. 67.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, March 3, 1878, 3·10 P.M.*

HER Majesty's ship "Rapid," just returned from Avlona, found tranquillity there. Near Santa Quaranta saw crowd of women and children on the beach. Sent boats; brought off 180; have been disembarked here. Government has taken them in charge. Fighting going on in Valley of Delvino with various success. Only three villages have risen. No general revolt in Epirus.

No. 68.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 217.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1878.

I HAD an interview by appointment this day with Prince Gortchakow, when I communicated to his Highness the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 13th instant, and left in his hands the Memorandum of which I have the honour to annex a copy.

I expressed to Prince Gortchakow the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the declaration communicated by Count Schouvaloff, "that the Russian Government did not regard the dispatch of a detachment of the British fleet to Constantinople as partaking of any hostile character, but that Her Majesty's Government could not acknowledge that the circumstances of the entry of the British fleet into the Bosphorus and the occupation of Constantinople by a Russian force are in any way parallel, or that the despatch of British ships for the purpose indicated could justify the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople."

His Highness said that he could not participate in this opinion, and observed that, if the necessity existed for Her Majesty's fleet to protect British life and property, it was equally incumbent on Russia to protect the large Christian population of the capital. He denied that there existed any cause of danger to authorize the presence of the fleet, which was a violation of the Treaty, and in opposition to the wish of the Sultan. His Highness observed that he could only view it as an act of political demonstration against Russia.

I replied to his Highness that there was a large assemblage of refugees now at Constantinople, and amongst them a considerable number of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, who were not yet disarmed, and who were without the means of subsistence. They constituted a danger to the peace and order of the capital where there were some 3,000 British subjects with considerable property, and for whose safety Her Majesty's Government were responsible.

The despatch of the fleet was simply for the protection of British life and property, and to cover the responsibility of Her Majesty's Government, which, I added, was sufficiently proved by the small number of the ships sent for the purpose indicated.

My arguments, however, did not appear to have any effect in removing the impressions which the entry of the fleet had produced on the mind of his Highness, and which he maintained was a measure dictated by distrust of Russia, and intended as a demonstration against her.

I then referred to the question of Gallipoli, and I read to his Highness the substance of your Lordship's telegram of the 13th instant, of which I forward a copy. To this communication Prince Gortchakow replied, in rather short terms, that he would take no more engagements, nor give any further assurances, in regard to Gallipoli, ending his phrase with the following words: "Faites ce que vous voulez."

I merely replied that it would be my duty to report to your Lordship the reply of his Highness to the communication I had addressed to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Memorandum handed to Prince Gortchakow on the 15th February, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have received communication by the Russian Ambassador of a telegram from Prince Gortchakow stating that the British Government having announced their intention to send ships to Constantinople for the protection of British subjects, the Russian Government, with precisely the same object, have in view temporary occupation of Constantinople, with the distinction that they will, if occasion arises, protect the entire Christian population. The two Governments would accordingly fulfil a common duty of humanity, and this pacific understanding could not have a character of mutual hostility.

I am instructed to express to the Imperial Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the declaration that the Russian Government do not regard dispatch of a detachment of the British fleet to Constantinople as partaking of any

hostile character, but that they cannot acknowledge that the circumstances are in any way parallel, or that the dispatch of a detachment of the British fleet for the purpose indicated justifies the entry of Russian troops into Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that there is a marked difference between the two proceedings. In the one case, the ships of war of a friendly Power are sent into the proximity of the city to afford British subjects the protection which they are entitled to require of their Government in case of necessity. In the other, the troops of a hostile army are to be marched into the town in violation of the existing armistice, and at the risk of provoking disasters and occasioning the very danger to the Ottoman population which the Russian Government deprecate.

Her Majesty's Government cannot, moreover, admit that the dispatch of ships has any bearing on the entry of Russian troops; a measure which is, in their opinion, uncalled for by any circumstances of military or other necessity, and the consequences of which may be disastrous to the whole population of Constantinople.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Substance of Telegram from the Earl of Derby, dated February 13, 1878, 9·45 P.M., *read to Prince Gortchakow on the 15th February.*

I HAVE to inform you, for your information and guidance, that I expressed the earnest hope to Count Schouvaloff that the Russian Government will not make any movement of troops to Gallipoli, or one of such a nature as would threaten the communications of Her Majesty's fleet. Any such movement, I assured him, would be regarded in England as compromising the safety of the fleet, and I could not answer in the actual state of public feeling for the consequences.

No. 69.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 219.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW, in reply to my inquiry this morning, said that the graver incidents now passing at Constantinople in consequence of the presence of our fleet had thrown momentarily the Conference question into the shade.

No decision, his Highness said, had yet been taken in regard to the place of its meeting. He had no wish to act as President of it, as had been reported, although the Presidency had been offered to him by Count Andrassy in case of the Conference meeting at Vienna. Should the Conference meet in a German town, he (Prince Gortchakow) should himself propose that Prince Bismarck should be the President.

His Highness expressed himself strongly in favour of the Conference being attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, observing that greater weight would thereby be given to the deliberations and greater facility afforded for harmonious understanding.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 70.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 223.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1878.

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW observed to me, in the course of conversation this morning, that he had been informed that on the Porte appealing for advice to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, his Excellency had advised the Turkish Government to resist the entry of the Russian troops into Constantinople.

I replied to his Highness that I attached no credence to this report, and that I attributed it to malevolence.

I venture to suggest that it might be desirable to give a formal denial of this reported information to Count Schouvaloff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 71.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 244. Secret.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 19, 1878.*

I HAVE observed of late considerable activity here in regard to naval matters relating to the Black Sea.

I have already reported to your Lordship the departure of Admiral Popoff and Captain Baranoff, of the sending of torpedo boats to Odessa, and I am now informed that Admiral Tchelacheff has been summoned here from Odessa, where he is the Chief Superintendent of the Black Sea Steam Company and Fleet.

From the language reported to me confidentially I am led to believe that it is the object and intention of the Russian Government to exclude foreign ships of war, and specially those of England, from the Black Sea, and thus to render it as regards naval and military purposes a *mare clausum*.

I have also reason to believe that the Imperial negotiators with Turkey will seek to obtain from the Porte a secret arrangement by which certain territory at the mouth of the Bosphorus will be ceded to Russia with a view to its acquisition as a permanent fortified position, to enable Russia to exercise complete command over those Straits, and that for this concession Russia will, on her part, abstain from occupying Constantinople.

I cannot state with any positive certainty that any actual proposals of this nature have been made, but from certain articles of the Russian press, strongly urging the occupation of the mouth of the Bosphorus, and from other private information, I strongly suspect that an intention of this nature is entertained, and that the apparent activity in regard to naval matters in the Black Sea may be attributed to it.

I therefore consider it my duty to apprize Her Majesty's Government of an apparent design of the Russian Government, which, if carried into effect with or without the concurrence of Turkey, must constitute a serious danger both now and hereafter to British interests.

At the present moment I consider the freedom of the Bosphorus to be a question of vital strategical importance.

Should Russia obtain the entire command of those Straits she becomes mistress of the Black Sea, and consequently could prevent any effective naval aid on the part of England to Austria, should that Power be obliged to have recourse to military operations against a Russian occupation of Bulgaria.

The exclusion of a British naval force from the Black Sea would leave Russia free to provision her army in Bulgaria, and give her the facility of transporting troops for strategical purposes on the flank or in the rear of an advancing Austrian force.

It is evident that the question is one of serious moment both as regards the present and future, and may have considerable influence in a strategical point of view on the decision which the Austrian Cabinet may be called upon to take.

It is on this account that I have ventured to bring this question under your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 72.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 246. Private and Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 20, 1878.*

WITH reference to the Memorandum communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff, as contained in your telegram of the 18th instant, in which his Excellency

"is authorized by Prince Gortchakow to declare that the Imperial Cabinet expects in return that no English troops shall be landed on European or Asiatic coasts," I venture to suggest that, in the event of Her Majesty's Government engaging not to land troops on the European side of the Dardanelles, a similar engagement should be taken by Russia not to occupy the territory forming the European or Asiatic shores at the mouth of the Bosphorus.

If England renounces the occupation of the Dardanelles, Russia, as an act of due reciprocity, ought to renounce the occupation of any part of the Bosphorus, and especially of that portion forming the entry to the Black Sea, although I attach but little importance practically to any Russian assurances of this nature.

The present military position of Russia virtually amounts to an occupation of Constantinople, including the European shore of the Bosphorus, and likewise also to a command of Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, as, with the forces at her command, she can occupy them whenever she may think fit to do so. Under these circumstances, Russia can easily give assurances which are only binding for the moment, whilst she remains perfectly unfettered as regards the Bosphorus, the occupation of which is her principal aim.

If, therefore, England engages not to occupy Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, a similar engagement should be taken by Russia not to occupy the Bosphorus, or otherwise I consider that we should be at a considerable disadvantage, and still more so if we bound ourselves not to land troops on the Asiatic coast.

By such an engagement we should be debarred from landing troops on either side of the Straits, whilst the whole European coast of the Sea of Marmora is lined with Russian troops.

It is, I believe, with an ultimate view of the occupation of Constantinople and of the Bosphorus that Prince Gortchakow has specially required that no English troops should be landed on the Asiatic coasts, and I need scarcely remind your Lordship that under present circumstances the diplomacy of this country is chiefly guided by military considerations.

I have to request that your Lordship will pardon the freedom with which I have offered the foregoing opinions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 73.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 268. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.*

I HAVE been unable to see Prince Gortchakow, who is confined to his bed by illness, since the receipt of the Memorandum which your Lordship gave to Count Schouvaloff on the 21st instant, but I am privately informed from an authentic source that Prince Gortchakow has communicated to the Great Powers the text of it, as also that of his reply, which is reported to me as stating "that England was free to take what course she pleased, but that it would make no difference in the decision of the Imperial Government."

I cannot guarantee the correctness of the reported reply of Prince Gortchakow, but I have thought it important to inform your Lordship of its having been communicated, with the Memorandum of your Lordship, to the several European Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 74.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 272.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 25, 1878.*

ON the 8th February I had the honour to forward to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 163, the official text of the Preliminaries of Peace, published in the official column of the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

At the end of Article I it is stated as follows:—

"L'armée Ottomane n'y sejournerait plus sauf quelques points a determiner d'un commun accord."

In my despatch No. 228, of February 17, I forwarded to your Lordship the official text of the Protocol containing the Preliminary Bases of Peace, signed by the Grand Duke Nicholas and Server and Namyk Pashas.

At the end of Article I it is stated as follows:—

"L'armée Ottomane n'y sejournerait plus."

I have thought it right to draw your Lordship's attention to the discrepancy between these two official documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 75.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 275.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a Memorandum by Mr. Michell, reporting the general tone of the Russian press in regard to the present state of Eastern affairs.

Your Lordship will observe from the inclosed paper that the occupation by Russia of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles is persistently urged by the Russian press as a counterpart to the military preparations now making by England and Austria.

There is no doubt that the attitude of Austria is causing here some disquietude, not only in official circles, but also generally in the commercial and financial classes, but it is hoped that by taking up a firm and decided attitude Russia may succeed in carrying out her programme, notwithstanding the opposition of England or Austria.

I think it right to draw your Lordship's special attention to that part of Mr. Michell's Memorandum which (in referring to the language of the "Russki Mir," the principal organ of the Slav party) seems to indicate an intention on the part of Russia to endeavour to separate the interests of Austria from those of England, and by deferring the solution of the question of the Straits, and accepting for the moment the existing *status quo*, to satisfy the demands of England, to neutralize her opposition, and thus to avoid the danger of a collision with her.

Having thus disposed of the threatening hostility of England, Russia would be left to deal with Austria single-handed, with whom it is confidently hoped that terms of compromise could be arrived at.

The principal aim, therefore, of Russia is to bring about a separation of interests between England and Austria, or, as is expressed by the "Golos," "our great object at the present moment ought to be to deprive England of every possibility of catching any of the Continental Powers into her net. The complete isolation of England is what we should endeavour to secure at all hazards."

I likewise inclose in translation an article from the "Novoe Vremia" of this day, commenting on the military preparations of Austria and England.

It is therein stated that the military preparations in England need not cause alarm to Russia "if we (Russia) only succeed in securing in time the positions on the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora."

This idea is the key-note of the whole Russian press, and, as reported in Mr. Michell's Memorandum, is advocated with special force and vehemence as a strategical measure of vital importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 75.

Memorandum.

THE majority of the Russian press continues to urge, with the greatest persistency, the necessity of the occupation by Russia of the shores of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles simultaneously with the conclusion of a Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey. The necessity of this step is advocated in view of the military preparations now actively carried on by England and Austria. The gravity of the situation for Russia is unanimously admitted, but it is considered that the display of a firm determination on the part of Russia not to yield at the Conference any one of the Conditions of Peace imposed on Turkey will compel the protesting Powers to acknowledge accomplished facts.

The "Russki Mir," however, which is the principal organ of the Slavophil party, has recently somewhat modified its bellicose impulses, for it now advocates, in view of the threatening attitude of Austria, the advisability of deferring the solution of the question of the Straits to a more opportune moment, in order to remove the only possible bone of contention between Russia and England. This idea it expresses in the following words:—

"In all probability it will be necessary to defer the final settlement of the question respecting the Bosphorus and Dardanelles to another time, should the solution of this question really involve the necessity of a new war. . . . It is only necessary to remove the pretensions of England to the Straits connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, inasmuch as such pretensions are not consistent with the continuation of peaceful relations between Russia and England.

"Can such a political combination be discovered which, while consistent with Russia's interests, would contain no serious cause for a hostile collision with Great Britain? This is the whole question, and the problem which diplomacy at the present time is striving to solve."

These sentences, though guarded, pretty clearly imply that Russia has only to satisfy England in the matter of the Straits, and thus avoid all collision with England.

Having thus disposed of the threatening hostility of one Power, Russia, the reader is led by inference to suppose, would have to deal with Austria single-handed. This idea is still more clearly expressed in a leading article of the "Golos" of the $\frac{1}{25}$th February, 1878, in which the following words occur:—

"Our great object at the present moment should be to deprive England of every possibility of catching any of the Continental Powers into her net. The complete isolation of England is what we should endeavour to secure at all hazards."

The necessity of securing this end is again urged by the "Golos" of to-day ($\frac{1}{26}$th February, 1878). It declares:—

"That in view of the conflict of interests between Austria and England, which, if mutually compromised or arranged, may lead to serious opposition at the Conference to the Conditions of the 'Peace of Constantinople,' there can be no hesitation as to the choice of means for paralysing any such possible agreement."

The occupation of the mouth of the Bosphorus by Russia is advocated by all sections of the press with special force and vehemence as a strategical measure of vital importance.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, February 26, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 75.

Substance of Article in the "Novoe Vremia" of February 26, 1878.

THE "Novoe Vremia," in its number of the 26th instant (Tuesday), commenting on the military preparations going on in Austria and England, argues as follows:—

"As regards Austria we cannot yet say whether she is arming against her own subjects, the Slavs, or against Russia. Doubt remains in the minds of many of the Austro-Hungarian statesmen themselves whether the object of these preparations is war with Russia or a peaceful conquest of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Until this is cleared up there is no reason for Russia to be uneasy as long as she continues to secure her flank.

"We have, however, one great advantage over Austria: we have only one flank, though it is an extended one, and besides, we have now the Danubian fortresses as our base. Austria, on the other hand, has many weak points, as her Roumanian, Servian, Montenegrin, Italian, and last, but not least, Czech boundaries prove.

"Neither need the preparations in England alarm us if we only succeed in securing in time the positions on the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmora. The Straits of the Bosphorus and their fortifications are now of far greater importance than they were. The Bosphorus may easily be our best protection against an attack on the part of England, for no Power hastens into war when there is little chance of landing troops in the enemy's territory. On the other hand, if the Bosphorus be an open gate, England might send troops by her fleet to threaten our rear by a descent in the Black Sea.

"If England does not draw in her horns soon, if the Beaconsfield Ministry at the end of a month's time, when the 6,000,000*l.* will have been exhausted, asks Parliament for a further vote, it is absolutely essential that Russia should station a portion of her army on both shores of the Straits independently of the manner in which the question of their navigation in time of peace may be settled. With our foot once on the Bosphorus we can much more safely deal with the questions and decisions of the Conference.

"One English military paper estimates that England could send to the East an army of 75,000 men, which could soon be raised to 140,000. Even if these figures are not exaggerated there is little to fear in them, especially when we consider that none of the troops are yet mobilized. Admitting even that Austria and England mean to go to war, it is not likely that both Powers will be ready to undertake it in the first half of the present year."

No. 76.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, February 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article in translation by Mr. Michell from the "Novoe Vremia" of this day, enumerating the "maximum" of the concessions which Russia might be induced to make in her Conditions of Peace with Turkey in order to avoid a general European war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Extract from the "Novoe Vremia."

A CORRESPONDENT of the "Novoe Vremia," of February $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878, who signs himself "Diplomatist," makes the following remarks with reference to the concessions that Russia might make in her Conditions of Peace with Turkey in order to avoid a general European war:—

"Russia, under the pressure brought to bear upon her by Europe, has agreed not to bring forward the question of the Dardanelles as one of the Conditions of Peace with Turkey. So as to avert an European war we may agree to diminish the territorial indemnity for Servia and Montenegro; we may withdraw our pretensions in respect to Dobrudscha and to certain parts of Armenia; likewise diminish the amount of the war indemnity demanded by us, and forego the surrender of the Turkish fleet; beyond these concessions, however, we should not, and, it is to be hoped, we shall not go. The frontier of the Principality of Bulgaria must extend southward of Adrianople, and a part even of Bessarabia must be returned to Russia. The considerable war contribution, together with Kars and Batoum, will serve as an indemnity to us for the sacrifices we have made.

"This is the maximum of the concessions to which Russia should agree; but we will hope that the Turks will become tractable, and will not be seduced by English promises. In any case the Porte must understand that in regard to the question of the frontiers of Bulgaria no concession can be made. In the Eastern question we pursue two objects: the establishment of a firm bond of union with the Slavs and the settlement of the question of the Straits. If, after the present war, we cannot attain the second object we have all the more reason for endeavouring to attain the first."

No. 77.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 281.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, February 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting Memorandum by Mr. Michell on the opinions of the Russian Press and public on Prince Bismarck's speech.

This speech has had a disheartening effect on public opinion in Russia, and, in conjunction with the present attitude of Austria, leads it to despair of being able to achieve the "Holy Mission" of Russia, viz., the destruction of the Turkish Empire in Europe, and the domination of Russia in the East.

The principal object of Russian policy appears now to be the separation of England from Austria, thus neutralizing a possible combined movement against Russia.

The object of Russian fear would appear to be the immediate occupation of the mouth of the Bosphorus by England, which would be a death-blow to their political hopes and endeavours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Opinion of Press and Public on Prince Bismarck's Speech.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S speech has produced a very depressing effect on the public mind at St. Petersburgh, and this impression, in spite of all endeavours to conceal it, is reflected in the Russian press. The ignorant and uninitiated public looked forward to the last moment with the greatest confidence to Prince Bismarck's enunciation of his policy, and even educated Russians fully expected that the veil which had hitherto hung over the German sphinx would, when lifted, exhibit to Europe a Germany prepared to support Russia both morally and even materially at the present crisis. These expectations have not only not been realized, but even a great amount of selfishness, indifference, and coldness have been discovered towards Russia in his famous speech. The alliance of the three Emperors, says the intelligent Russian, has after all proved a myth. Our Austrian ally is at present openly preparing to meet us in the field, while Germany, our great hope and trusted friend, has declared by the mouth of the Chancellor that she does not intend to meddle in matters which, though deeply affecting our interests, yet in no way concern herself. The consciousness of the loss of one supposed ally, and the proclaimed passive neutrality of another, has naturally given rise to serious doubts and misgivings both in official and private circles. It is found that at a very critical moment Russia, after all her sacrifices and victories, may not be able to meet with her due reward. The substance which she thought was in her grasp now proves to be only a shadow, owing to the studied egotistic neutrality of one Power, and the open hostility of two others mainly interested in the settlement of the Eastern question. All may not yet be lost, says the quick-witted Russian patriot. It is true that our scheme for the virtual destruction of the Turkish Empire involves the collapse of the political influence of England in the East of Europe and the gradual dissolution of Austria as an Empire, we may yet be able to secure our ends by beating our opponents in detail. Our first object must consist in propitiating England by temporarily waiving all discussion of the question of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. By these means we remove the hostility of England and turn our attention to Austria. Holding the entrance to the Bosphorus, thus rendering our base on the Black Sea secure, we may defy Austria and oppose her successfully in the field. It is Austria combined with England that we have to dread, and a common understanding between whom we must endeavour to frustrate, though it be at the cost of serious concessions to the latter, which after all will be only temporary. At the present moment we must at all hazards secure the entrance to the Black Sea against the possible hostile British fleet. Such, more or less, is the tone of thought which at present pervades public opinion and the Russian press. Perplexity, fear, and doubt appear to be general, Prince Bismarck's speech having removed the last stone of the foundation on which all Russians confidently rested their hopes of a successful and permanent establishment of their political domination in the East. What Russians at present most dread is

united opposition on the part of England and Austria to the fulfilment of the "Holy Mission" of Russia, which all thoughtful and educated Russians thoroughly understand to consist in the destruction of Turkey as an independent Power and the consequent domination of Russia over the Mahommedan world. They recognize that the immediate occupation of the entrances to the Bosphorus by England would be a death-blow to all their political hopes and endeavours.

(Signed) JOHN MICHELL.

St. Petersburgh, February $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

No. 78.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, February* 20, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch of the 13th instant from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, reporting the continued advance of the Servians east of Novi-Bazar, and regarding the feelings in favour of Bosnia of the Mussulmans at Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Sir, *Mitrovica, February* 13, 1878.

IN my despatch of the 7th instant I stated that the Servians had advanced on Ottoman territory near Sjenica since the cessation of hostilites. I have now, on the authority of the officers commanding at Novi-Bazar and Mitrovica, to report similar advances east of Novi-Bazar.

On the 6th the Servians appeared on some high ground near the village of Lepusi, and within a mile of the high road from Novi-Bazar to Mitrovica, which is completely in view. The Servians still occupy this post with a detachment of ten men, though it is commanded by the Turkish redoubt above Rogosno Han, one of the four garrisoned by the battalion guarding the road beeween Novi-Bazar and Banjsko. Detached parties have even crossed the road near Han Kadiace.

At Socanica, on the Ibar, about eighteen miles from here, the Turks have a garrison of 200 regulars, with some irregulars, and here again the Servians have advanced on either side of the Turks, and hold their ground.

The Turkish cordon seems maintained by parties of varying strength placed at certain points, and no connection seems to be maintained either by patrols or sentries.

According to a rumour current in Novi-Bazar the Servians advancing on Rogosno were commanded to halt by their superior officers, but the men pressed on in defiance of orders. This may or may not be true, but the advance since the Armistice has been so general that it looks like an organized movement.

The Servians on the Ibar are reported to be anxious to gain Mitrovica, and seem to be acting on the idea that any ground not actually held by Ottoman troops may be occupied by them, in the hopes that when the rectification of the frontier is made, they will be given all ground occupied by their troops.

The Christian inhabitants of the frontier fled to Servia at the outbreak of hostilities, and except in one village have not returned.

At Novi-Bazar there are only some 500 Christians, but these seem well-to-do, and living unmolested. On Sunday I attended afternoon service in the Greek Church, and though the congregation was small there was no evidence of either fear or want.

The sandjak has only within the last twelvemonths been separated from the Vilayet of Bosnia, and the inhabitants pride themselves on being Bosniacs. At Novi-Bazar I was warmly welcomed by some of the leading Moslems as Vice-Consul for Bosnia, which they said showed that in the eyes of Europe Novi-Bazar still formed part of Bosnia.

They regard their fate as mixed up with that of Bosnia, and are anxious to learn

the conditions of peace. Those rumoured they consider hard for Turkey, but they were more or less expected; the particular form which autonomy is to take in Bosnia interests them most.

Provided properly be not touched the separation from the Porte will not hurt the Bosniacs. Had it been a question of annexation the Moslems would have preferred Austria, while the Orthodox would have chosen Servia. The Moslem Beys seem prepared to deal fairly with the Christians, but it will be some time before they regard them as equals, and it will require a capable and powerful head to govern Bosnia for the first couple of years, after that as education and trade spread things will right naturally.

In any arrangement that may be made for the Government of Bosnia, Novi-Bazar ought to be included; the number of Christians will prevent it remaining directly under the Porte, whilst such a large proportion of the population being Moslems will render annexation to Servia difficult.

Hafiz Pasha is still at Pristina, where he has taken the bulk of his forces to watch the Servians at Gilan; a large body of Turks are at Kurshumlje; and Novi-Bazar is garrisoned by two battalions regulars, 2,500 Mustahfiz, 300 Bashi-Bazouks (cavalry), one company garrison artillery, with 25 pieces of ordnance in works round the town.

I have just received your telegram to wait here till the post arrives, due on Monday, the 18th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 79.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 144. Secret.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 25, 1878.

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I endeavoured to elicit, in conversation with Prince Bismarck, some further statements respecting the communication he had made to me on the 17th instant. I found that he generally confirmed the statements he had made to me on that occasion, but that he now thought that the private correspondence of the three Emperors was certain to lead to improved relations between Austria and Russia, and that the Emperor of Austria would in consequence come to some agreement with the Czar rather than quarrel about the new order of things in Turkey.

Prince Bismarck said he also thought the Government of France and of Italy showed a greater inclination towards a policy of concession than of resistance to Russia.

The Russians evidently felt elated at their success and at the strength of their present position, and sought subterfuges to postpone the Conference and strengthen their position still more, so as to be even better prepared in the event of England declaring war, which he hoped might not be the case.

He had nevertheless strongly recommended moderation at St. Petersburgh, and urged the early meeting of the Conference the Russian Government had in principle already agreed to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 80.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 146. Secret.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 26, 1878.

I AM told on good authority that Prince Bismarck is exerting his great influence on the Governments of France and of Italy to get them to acquiesce in the position Russia has acquired in Turkey, and to dissuade England from interfering with it for the present.

Prince Bismarck is also said to think that Austria might safely agree to the

formation of the enlarged State of Bulgaria as now proposed by Russia, if she herself annexed Bosnia and Servia, and added them to the Austrian Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 81.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 148. Confidential.)
Berlin, February 26, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship yesterday, Prince Bismarck instructed the German Ambassador at St. Petersburgh to recommend moderation and the early meeting of the Conference to the Russian Government in the general interest of peace.

Prince Gortchakow's answer has now been received and is far from satisfactory. It is said to be an evasive answer, from which Prince Bismarck can only conclude that the Russian Government is seeking an excuse to back out of the Conference altogether.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 82.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 155.)
Berlin, March 2, 1878.

My Lord,

MY Russian colleague tells me that there is no foundation for the report current in Berlin that the meeting of the Conference is becoming problematical.

The Russian Government adhere to their declarations in regard to the Conference, but cannot be ready to send their Plenipotentiaries to Baden-Baden as early as the 15th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 83.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 4.)

Athènes, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Février*, 1878.

Monsieur,

EN vous annonçant, par ma dépêche du $\frac{27 \text{ Janvier}}{8 \text{ Février}}$, l'ordre donné aux troupes Royales de se retirer des provinces Grecques de la Turquie qu'elles venaient d'occuper provisoirement, je vous faisais part en même temps des assurances données au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté par la plupart des Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Athènes, qu'une question Hellénique serait posée dans le sein du Congrès prochain, et que la cause des populations Grecques de la Turquie ne manquerait point d'être l'objet de la sérieuse sollicitude des Plénipotentiaires Européens qui seraient appelés à y siéger.

Ces assurances, qui témoignaient une fois de plus, les sympathies des Grandes Puissances pour la race Hellénique et son avenir, ont encouragé le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté à formuler vis-à-vis de l'Europe la demande d'obtenir aussi une place dans le futur Congrès, en qualité de représentant naturel des aspirations nationales des populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman.

Quoique je vous ai déjà autorisé, par ma note précitée, de soumettre cette demande à l'appréciation du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et que je vous ai sommairement indiqué les arguments qui pourraient militer pour son acceptation, je crois toutefois devoir y revenir pour vous prier de répéter formellement notre demande auprès de son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Grande Bretagne.

Nous sommes, selon toutes les apparences, à la veille de la convocation du Congrès qui sera appelé à poser les bases d'une paix durable en Orient, et à assurer à ses populations les conditions d'une existence nationale et prospère. Or cette perspective opportune fait au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté un devoir sacré d'élever encore une fois sa voix pour plaider devant le Tribunal Européen la cause des populations Helléniques de l'Empire Ottoman. Poussés à bout par les abus et les exactions inqualifiables de la domination Ottomane, elles viennent de prendre les armes un peu tard, il est vrai, mais assez tôt, toutefois, pour protester devant l'Europe civilisée contre une destinée qui fait tache à la civilisation.

Ce n'est pas un droit de protectorat que la Grèce libre voudrait revendiquer sur les Hellènes de l'Empire Ottoman. On nous a bien des fois objecté de pareilles velléités, et nous tenons à cœur de faire envisager la question sous son véritable point de vue.

Le Royaume Hellénique n'a fait de tout temps et ne fait encore aujourd'hui que partager l'intérêt dont l'Europe Chrétienne a tant de fois fait preuve pour l'Hellénisme esclave.

S'il se fait le champion d'une cause sacrée pour lui c'est qu'il ne saurait oublier les liens d'origine et de religion qui unissent ses enfants avec leurs frères déshérités, ni étouffer non plus le contre-coup douloureux que leurs souffrances séculaires font naître dans les cœurs des Hellènes libres. Personne, assurément, ne voudrait reprocher à la Grèce libre ses souhaits pour l'émancipation des Hellènes de la Turquie, ni ses efforts pour lui procurer une existence nationale.

Si le Royaume Hellénique forme aujourd'hui des vœux de représenter dans le Congrès prochain les droits imprescriptibles et les aspirations nationales des populations Grecques de l'Empire Ottoman, et qu'il tienne à ce que ce vœu soit exaucé par les Grandes Puissances, il se fie pleinement au sentiment de justice lequel, nous en sommes fermement convaincus, anime l'Europe pour les destinées des Hellènes de la Turquie.

Heureusement pour ces populations les Cabinets Européens paraissent disposés à s'occuper sérieusement de l'amélioration définitive de leur avenir; ils nous en ont donné l'assurance formelle. Nous ne doutons point que cette question ne soit posée et débattue dans le sein du futur Congrès. Dans ce cas ne serait-il point juste et raisonnable d'y accorder une place au Royaume Hellénique pour expliquer les droits de ces populations, leurs luttes et leurs souffrances, justifier leurs aspirations, et tâcher d'amener les suprêmes arbitres du Congrès à les réaliser? La cause des provinces Grecques de la Turquie n'encourrait-elle sans cela le risque d'être moins favorisée que ces populations ne seraient en droit d'espérer? Combattue naturellement dans le sein du Congrès par le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui aurait un intérêt capital de perpétuer un état de choses depuis longtemps réprouvé par l'humanité, cette cause ne serait-elle pas compromise, faute d'un défenseur naturel qui pût la plaider?

Nous aimons à espérer que la décision des Grandes Puissances ne sera point défavorable à notre demande. Nous le souhaitons d'autant plus qu'une pareille concession, qui serait pour les populations Helléniques une augure favorable des dispositions des Cabinets Européens en leur faveur, contribuerait aussi beaucoup à conjurer les périls, chaque jour renouvelés, dont le Royaume se voit entouré, et à éclaircir une situation épineuse et tendue, qui menace de compromettre sa propre sécurité.

En vous autorisant, Monsieur, à soumettre notre demande au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, je vous prie de donner lecture de la présente à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères du Gouvernement Britannique et de solliciter sa réponse.

Je crois devoir vous informer aussi que cette Circulaire collective vient d'être adressée à toutes les Légations de Sa Majesté en Europe.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 84.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 4.)

(Secret.)
Admiralty, March 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the protest of his Excellency the Governor of the Dardanelles against the passage of the British fleet up the Straits, dated 13th February, 1878.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

P.S.—I am to request that the inclosure may be returned as soon as convenient.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Hussein Ruchdi Pasha to Admiral Hornby.

(Traduction.)

IL est notoire que d'après la teneur du Traité de Paris le passage du Détroit des Dardanelles est prohibé aux vaisseaux de guerre des Puissances étrangères.

Il est rigoureusement défendu par conséquent à tout vaisseau de passer le sus-dit Détroit à moins d'une autorisation spéciale du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

Vous avez cependant fait entrer la flotte qui se trouve sous votre commandement sans remplir cette formalité, et comme vous avez fait opérer une entrée arbitraire, il devenait nécessaire dès lors de recourir à une opposition belliqueuse pour en empêcher l'avancement.

Néanmoins, le but de l'entrée spontanée à Constantinople de votre flotte n'étant pas connu quant à présent, et, d'autre part, considérant que la mise d'un obstacle dans ce genre à son avancement dans le Détroit donnera naturellement naissance à des désagréments et dommages, tant pour l'une que l'autre des deux parties.

Pour ces motifs je me faits un devoir de vous prévenir, M. l'Amiral, que lors de votre passage du Détroit, que je n'empêcherai que par ma présente et officielle protestation, aucun coup de canon ne sera tiré des fortifications Impériales pour vous saluer à votre passage, et si vous sortez arbitrairement des Détroits, comme vous l'avez fait pour y entrer, dans ce cas je ne manquerai pas d'en informer immédiatement mon Gouvernement.

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1878 (*et le* 10 *Sefer*, 1295.)

(Signé) HUSSEIN RUCHDI, *Férik*,
Défenseur des Côtes de la Mer Blanche.

No. 85.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 4.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, March 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying despatch from Vice-Admiral Hornby, Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station, dated the 14th February, reporting the proceedings of the squadron under his command in carrying out the orders given to him that the fleet should pass through the Dardanelles to Constantinople, for the purpose of protecting British life and property at that place.

I am to request that the despatch, which is in original, may be returned. A copy will be furnished to you if required.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *"Alexandra," in the Sea of Marmora, February* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that, in pursuance of their Lordships' telegraphic instructions of the 8th instant, which reached me on the following day, about 1 P.M., I weighed with the ships named in the margin,* and proceeded in execution of their Lordships' orders about 6 P.M., sending the "Salamis" on to the Dardanelles with a despatch to the Governor of the Straits, requesting him to permit the ships to pass, copy of which is inclosed.

The "Salamis" rejoined me when I was just above Koumkaleh, Commander Egerton bringing a verbal message from the Pasha that no Firman had been received from Constantinople, and that therefore his Excellency protested against the squadron

* "Alexandra," "Achilles," "Téméraire," "Ruby," "Swiftsure."

passing the forts. About the same time I also received a telegram from Mr. Layard, stating that the Porte had refused to grant a Firman, and that he had telegraphed to Lord Derby for instructions.

2. As I judged from their Lordships' telegraphic instructions that I was not intended to force the passage, but to wait for a Firman, I anchored for the night off the entrance of the Straits, sending the "Salamis" back to Chanak to await replies from their Lordships and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to whom I immediately reported the circumstances by telegraph.

3. At 4 A.M. on Sunday, the "Salamis" rejoined, and brought me a letter from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at the Dardanelles (copy attached), informing me that the Porte had desired the Governor of the Straits to call my attention to the fact that international law, and the rules of the Sublime Porte, altogether prohibited the entry of fleets or squadrons into the Dardanelles.

I then returned with the squadron to Besika Bay, and sent the "Salamis" back to Chanak, with orders to wait there until the middle of the day to see if the Firman was sent, and then to rejoin me, telling Commander Egerton that, if the Pasha desired to visit me, he was to bring his Excellency to Besika. At 1·30 P.M. she arrived with the Pasha, and his Excellency paid me a visit on board my flag-ship, and was saluted, on leaving, with nineteen guns.

His Excellency informed me that he had been in communication with Constantinople, and that he could get no definite reply from the Government, but that he had no authority to allow the squadron to pass the forts.

I gained certain private information from the Pasha relative to the state of affairs in and around Gallipoli, which I telegraphed to their Lordships on the 11th (Confidential message No. 13; copy herewith).*

4. At 3 P.M., on the 12th, Tuesday, I received their Lordships' telegram of the previous day, directing me to proceed into the Sea of Marmora with the fleet on Wednesday morning, without waiting for a Firman, and if fired upon by the forts, and the ships struck, to return the fire, and in consequence, yesterday, I weighed with the ships named in the margin† to carry out those orders.

I again sent the "Salamis" forward, with a letter to the Pasha of the Dardanelles (copy of which is inclosed), and the letter in Turkish, referred to hereafter, is supposed to be his Excellency's reply, as when the "Salamis" returned, Commander Egerton brought me what appears to be a duplicate of the document.

The weather was very thick, with a north-easterly gale blowing and snow; at the narrows it was so thick that at times the land was totally obscured, and in turning just off Fort Sultanié, I am sorry to say the "Alexandra" hung on the edge of a bank, with deep water (13 fathoms) within two ships' breadths of her. I immediately ordered the Rear-Admiral to proceed with the "Agincourt," "Achilles," "Swiftsure," and "Téméraire," to Gallipoli, and directed the "Sultan" to remain by the "Alexandra" to assist her off the shore.

The "Sultan" anchored on our port beam, and on the "Alexandra" securing that vessel's cable with a wire hawser, the "Sultan" slipped and re-anchored near. After four hours' exertion the "Alexandra" came off, and the two ships proceeded through the Straits, and anchored under Nagara Point for the night, where the "Agincourt" and "Salamis" had remained, the other three ships having gone on to Gallipoli.

5. Whilst the "Alexandra" was on shore, a Turkish boat came alongside with a letter from the Pasha in Turkish, of which I have not yet been able to obtain a translation, as the Interpreter was detached for temporary service in the "Raleigh" at Dédéagatch; a translation will be forwarded to their Lordships as soon as practicable. The officer, however, who delivered it, informed me, in English, that the despatch contained the Pasha's protest‡ to the ships passing, as it was against regulations for them to do so, that if my orders necessitated me to pass, that his Excellency would take no measures to endeavour to stop me, but that he desired to record his protest in an official form.

6. This morning at daylight, the weather having moderated, the "Agincourt" proceeded to Gallipoli, and the "Salamis" to Chanak. So soon as the "Sultan" had received her anchor and cable from the "Alexandra," I continued to Gallipoli with those two vessels, where I communicated with the shore, and saw Captain Fife, the Military Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, who is temporarily

* Sent to Foreign Office in Admiralty letter of February 13.

† "Alexandra," "Agincourt," "Achilles," "Swiftsure," "Téméraire," "Sultan," and "Salamis."

‡ Sent to Foreign Office in a separate letter.

Aliashed to Suleiman Pasha's head-quarters at Bulair: from him I obtained the intelligence communicated to their Lordships in my telegram of this day (copy herewith).*

7. The "Achilles" and "Téméraire" then weighed, and I proceeded with those ships and the "Sultan" to Prince's Island, where I hope to arrive early to-morrow morning, leaving Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell at Gallipoli with the "Agincourt" and "Swiftsure." Inclosed is a copy of the orders left with the Rear-Admiral.

The "Salamis" had not reached Gallipoli when I left, but I left orders for her to proceed immediately with all speed to Constantinople with despatches for Mr. Layard, and to rejoin me to-morrow morning at Prince's Island, when I shall go personally and see Her Majesty's Ambassador.

8. I deeply regret to have to report that yesterday morning at daylight, the "Raleigh" was observed to be on shore on Rabbit Island. I at once sent the "Hotspur" and "Ruby" to her assistance, and I trust the damage she may have sustained will be slight. I have not yet, however, heard any particulars regarding her, or whether she has been got off. I telegraphed on the 12th to Salonica for the "Research" and "Cygnet" to return to Besika immediately, so that Captain Tago will have ample force at his command to get the "Raleigh" off. She appeared to be somewhat under the lee of the northern portion of the island, and although there was a heavy sea on generally, it did not seem to be breaking close round her.

9. The "Raleigh," "Hotspur," "Ruby," and "Research," will remain at Besika until further orders, and the "Cygnet" will proceed, as soon as coaled, through the Straits to join the Rear-Admiral at Gallipoli. I have also ordered that the "Devastation," if sent from Malta, is to remain at Besika until further directions are sent concerning her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to Hussein Pasha, Governor-General of the Dardanelles.

Sir, "*Alexandra*," *at Besika Bay, February* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I have just received telegraphic instructions from the British Government to proceed, this evening if possible, with six vessels to Constantinople, and that Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte has been directed to request the Ottoman Government to give the necessary orders to your Excellency immediately to allow the ships to pass the forts.

As the orders I have received are pressing, I have the honour to request that you will permit me to prosecute my voyage without delay.

The officer who delivers this despatch will await your Excellency's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Vice-Consul Malling to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *British Vice-Consulate, Dardanelles, February* 9, 1878.

I HAVE just left the Military Governor, 11 P.M. at the telegraph office, where he has been holding communication during the whole of this evening with the Porte. He has informed me that your Excellency has arrived at the mouth of the Straits with six of Her Majesty's ships, and that you demand to pass. The Porte replies that Her Majesty's Embassy has not made such a request, but that your Excellency's demand will be laid before the Sultan by His Majesty's Ministers.

Should the "Salamis" return, the Military Governor will proceed in her to meet

* Sent to Foreign Office in Admiralty letter of February 15.

your Excellency, and will convey any further intelligence, if any, received from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. A. MALLING, *Vice-Consul.*

P.S.—I have been with the Military Governor at the telegraph office up to the hour of 1·30 A.M., when a communication from the Porte was received calling your Excellency's attention, through the Military Governor, to the fact that international law and the rules of the Sublime Porte altogether prohibit the entrance of the fleets or squadrons into the Dardanelles, or to pass the delimitation of Koum Kaleh.

J. A. M.

Inclosure 4 in No. 85.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to Hussein Pasha, Governor-General of the Dardanelles.

Sir, "*Alexandra*," *at Besika Bay, February* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I am ordered to proceed into the Sea of Marmora to protect British life and property, and I trust that your orders will permit of allowing me to pass without molestation, as I am ordered if fired into to return the fire, but I should be deeply grieved to have to take such a course, as it could only result in mutual damage to two old allies, and be to the benefit of their enemies.

I have to inform your Excellency that at the request of the Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmed Vefyk, conveyed to me by Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, I sent the "Raleigh" yesterday to Dédéagatch to embark fugitives; unless the Captain of that vessel receives orders to the contrary, he will land them at the Dardanelles. I trust, therefore, that in any case your Excellency will receive him as a friend.

The "Raleigh" will return to Besika Bay when the fugitives are disembarked.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Vice-Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

Inclosure 5 in No. 85.

Orders addressed to Rear-Admiral Commerell.

YOU are to take the "Swiftsure" under your orders and remain at Gallipoli to observe the Straits. While there you are to acquire as much information as possible, without attracting attention, on all subjects connected with the landing of troops and their transport to the Bulair lines. Landing places as affected by various winds from that to the west of the town to the large indentation north-east of it, where the road-road to Bulair begins to ascend the hills, and the various roads by which any part of the lines may be approached. The worst places in these should be specially noted, so that the attention of the engineers might be called to them at the first moment with a view to making them practicable.

2. The "Cygnet" will enter the Straits shortly, and you are to take her under your command.

3. The collier "Sir Bevis" may also be expected. When she arrives the "Swiftsure" is to be completed with coal, and you are to inform me by telegraph how much the ships under your orders will require in addition.

4. Any information which you may obtain which you think of sufficient importance to communicate instantly to the Admiralty is to be telegraphed in vocabulary cypher to their Lordships.

Given under my hand at Gallipoli, this 11th day of February, 1878.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 86.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 280.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1878.*

PEACE was signed yesterday afternoon. At the last moment General Ignatiew demanded that a signed declaration should be attached to it, on the part of Turkey, that she had accepted the Conditions of Peace of her own free will, and would sustain them before the Conference. This Sultan absolutely refused to do, and after reference to St. Petersburgh demand was withdrawn. I have not yet a copy of the Treaty, but am informed that indemnity of 40,000,000*l.* sterling has been reduced to 12,000,000*l.*, that the Tributes of Egypt and Bulgaria have been withdrawn from the Guarantees, that Salonica will not be included in Bulgaria, and that the coast of the Black Sea, from Bourgas to Kustendji, both inclusive, will belong to the Principality.

No. 87.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1878.*

CONSUL BLUNT has been informed that Russians are constructing works of defence facing the sea at Rodosto, Enos, and Dédéagatch.

No. 88.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 4, 1878.*

RATIFICATIONS of the Peace are to be signed within fifteen days at St. Petersburgh, after which the Russians are to begin to retire. Turks have agreed to abandon Adakaleh and to blow up fortifications: the Island to be declared neutral. Count Andrassy appears to attach great importance to this position, and may perhaps occupy it, judging from language held to me very confidentially by Count Zichy. A considerable augmentation has been also made, I am informed, to territory ceded to Servia, and in compensation Bulgaria has been much extended to the west. I hear secretly that there has been a question of the cession of Beikos to the Russians, but that the demand has been withdrawn. The Russians are pushing forward their left wing, and the day before yesterday Cossacks were at Perindjikoi and Pyrgos, in the direction of Therapia, with a view, it is said, to the occupation of those villages. And there is a suspicion that the Russians may possess themselves of the fort of Kavak on the Bosphorus. I have taken measures to keep myself informed as to the Russian advance on that side. More troops and guns are arriving at San Stefano and in the neighbourhood.

No. 89.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 292.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 4, 1878, 10·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 280, I was misinformed as to the reduction of the pecuniary indemnity to 12,000,000*l.* sterling. I am assured that only a vague promise was given that the Emperor of Russia might consent to a reduction. As the Porte still maintains secrecy, it is very difficult to ascertain the truth.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1878, 3 P.M.*

THE Montenegrin Senator, M. Petrovitch, arrived here a few days ago, tells M. Orczy that he has no special request to make to the Austrian Government, having been sent only to despatch their goodwill towards the Principality in the arrangements to be made.

No. 91.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1878, 3·30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Consuls in Bosnia have not given their Government any information about a deputation of inhabitants of that province, reported in some newspapers to be coming to Vienna to beg for incorporation with Austria.

No. 92.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 4, 1878, 10 P.M.*

I ASKED M. Orczy to-day whether anything had been heard from St. Petersburgh about the Conference.

He said that there had been no communication from the Russian Government on the subject; but peace being signed, the question must again be brought forward, and he fully expected that the Conference would meet before the end of the month.

No. 93.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 4, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram from Grand Duke Nicholas, received last night, is published this morning, dated San Stefano, Sunday, March 3, 3·5 P.M.:—

"I have the happiness to felicitate your Imperial Majesty on the occasion of the signature of peace. God has permitted us, Sire, to accomplish the great holy mission which you have undertaken; it is on the anniversary of the emancipation of the Russian peasants that your Majesty has liberated the Christians from the Mussulman yoke."

No. 94.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.

(No. 55. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 4, 1878.*

I LEARN to-day that Prince Gortchakow has stated that only fragments of Treaty have been received here by telegraph, that General Ignatiew is the bearer to the Emperor of full text, and that it will not be published until his arrival here.

No. 95.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 55 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 4, 1878, 9·55 P.M.*

I AM informed, but not officially, that on pressure by Prince Gortchakow, Prince Bismarck has assented to the meeting of the Congress at Berlin, and to accept Presidency. Answer from Count Andrassy not yet received.

No. 96.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Beyrout, March 4, 1878.*

ABSENCE of regular troops, return of Bashi-Bazouks, arrival of refugees, and distress of people make future uncertain, though country now in general quiet.

No. 97.

Consul Moore to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Jerusalem, March 4, 1878.*

MY district is at present quiet—safe for tourists; disorders not likely to occur.

No. 98.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 4.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, March 4, 1878.*

IT is my belief that, in the event of complications between Austria and Russia, this Government will adhere to their Russian alliance. It is reported that Russians are accumulating large quantities of war material at Galatz.

No. 99.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878, 12·30 P.M.*

TRY to ascertain what are the proposals which Count Andrassy intends to advance at the Conference with regard to the future constitution of Bulgaria, and the European Provinces of Turkey—especially details as to autonomy or local self-government.

The Russian Plenipotentiary will no doubt have plans all ready, and it is very desirable that the English Plenipotentiary should be likewise well prepared.

Can you yourself suggest any scheme for the Provinces likely to find support in the Conference from other Powers?

No. 100.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878, 5·15 P.M.*

HAVE you heard when the Conference is likely to meet?

No. 101.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878, 4·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 284, Secret, you may rest assured that no telegram from your Excellency marked "Secret" will be communicated to Parliament.

No. 102.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878, 6 P.M.*

THE Russian Ambassador has most confidentially communicated to me this day the following substance of a telegram dated March 3, which he has received from General Ignatieff:—

The Preliminaries of Peace have been signed.

Dobrudscha and Delta of the Danube are ceded to Russia, in order to be exchanged against Bessarabia.

Kars, Ardahan, Bayazid, and Batoum are annexed to Russia.

The whole of these annexations as an equivalent for three-fourths of the indemnity. Payment of the rest reserved for a subsequent arrangement.

The revenues pledged to previous loans are not touched.

No claim is made for the iron-clads.

Erzeroum, Trebizond, Salonica, and Adrianople are left to the Turks.

Navigation of the Danube is maintained on its former footing.

Montenegro and Servia do not become conterminous.

The question of the Straits is not touched.

No. 103.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 314.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 208 of the 22nd ultimo forwarding copy of a Report from Mr. Rassam respecting the state of affairs in the provinces through which he has been travelling; and I have to request that you will convey to that gentleman my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 104.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.†

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's confidential information, the accompanying Memorandum,‡ which was communicated to me to-day by the Russian Ambassador, and which purports to give the heads of the Terms of Peace agreed to between Russia and the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Identic telegrams to other Embassies.

† Similar despatches were addressed to Mr. Layard, Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, and Sir H. Elliot.

‡ No. .

No. 105.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 169.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain what proposals it is the intention of Count Andrassy to make at the Conference respecting the future constitution of Bulgaria, and that of the other European Provinces of the Turkish Empire. It is especially desirable that Her Majesty's Government should know details as to the nature and extent of the autonomy or local self-government which should, in his opinion, be granted.

There can be no doubt that the Russian Plenipotentiary will have plans prepared, and it is essential that the British Plenipotentiary should likewise be ready.

I should be glad if your Excellency could communicate to me any scheme which may occur to you for the constitution of the Provinces which would be likely to find support from the other Powers represented in the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 106.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 172.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I SHOULD be glad if your Excellency will inform me as soon as possible whether you have been able to obtain any information as to the probable date of the meeting of the Conference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 107.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 39.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings with reference to the alleged passage of Greek regulars into Epirus, as reported in your despatch No. 114 of the 18th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 108.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 40.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 120 of the 19th ultimo, reporting the steps taken by you with a view to secure the removal to a place of safety of the women and children at Phalano, in anticipation of an attack on that place; and I have to express to you my approval of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 109.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 41.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 125 of the 20th ultimo, and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. Delyanni, in the interview therein reported, on the subject of the movements of irregular bands, and the alleged re-crossing of the Turkish frontier by the Greeks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 110.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 6. Political.)
Foreign Office, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country,* which has been communicated to me by M. Gennadius; and I have to instruct you to furnish me with a report upon the statements contained therein, as to the outbreak of an insurrection in Crete, and the action of the Turkish authorities and military forces.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 111.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 5.)

(Confidential.)
Admiralty, March 4, 1878

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter dated the 19th ultimo, received from Vice-Admiral Hornby reporting his proceedings in the Sea of Marmora, and forwarding a letter from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, informing him of the Sultan's request that the ships under his command should not anchor in the waters of his capital, for fear that the Russians would in that event occupy Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

P.S.—These papers being sent in original, I am to request that they may be returned when done with, observing that copies will be furnished to you if required.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Vice-Admiral Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
"Alexandra," at Tuzla Bay, February 19, 1878.

Sir,

IN continuation of letter of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that I anchored at the Prince's Islands on the morning of Friday the 15th, with the four ships named in the margin.†

The "Flamingo" and "Salamis" joined me there during the forenoon of that day, bringing me a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, which Mr. Layard had requested Commander Hall to endeavour to deliver to me before the squadron anchored; the night being dark, however, we passed the "Flamingo" unobserved.

The "Salamis" had called at Constantinople, and brought me information that

* No.

† "Alexandra," "Achilles," "Téméraire," and "Sultan."

the Ambassador wished to communicate with me personally. I therefore proceeded immediately to wait upon his Excellency, and returned to the island the same evening.

3. I inclose the despatch the "Flamingo" brought me from Mr. Layard, and in consequence thereof, as well as from what his Excellency told me during our interview, I sent each vessel, as soon as she had coaled, from the Prince's Islands to a rendezvous seven miles south-south-west of Prinkipo, with a view to joining them there on Sunday morning and proceeding to Mundania Bay.

The inquiries I had made, however, about that anchorage not proving satisfactory, I brought the squadron here instead.

I am now ten miles from the International Telegraph Station at Prinkipo, with which I communicate twice daily to inquire for telegrams from their Lordships, and there is a telegraph station on the railway two miles distant, by which line I can communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador, the Telegraphic Director having sent a clerk from Stamboul expressly for that purpose.

4. I also send the "Salamis" daily to Constantinople to be at Mr. Layard's disposal if he should have any important communication to send to me immediately; thus I am either in constant personal or immediate communication with his Excellency, with whom I spent two or three hours yesterday.

5. I have telegraphed to Malta, to the Rear-Admiral second in command, to send the "Bittern," "Flying Fish," and "Foxhound," to Besika Bay as soon as they are available.

6. I have directed the "Torch" to return to Constantinople. As there were no means of communicating with her directly by post or otherwise, the "Antelope" proceeded on Sunday to Bourgaz, with orders to Commander Hamond to return immediately, and both vessels are due in the Bosphorus to-day.

7. As Sulina is now occupied by the Russians, I telegraphed to their Lordships on the 16th to inquire whether it is desirable to recall the "Cockatrice" from that port, but to the present I have received no reply.

8. The "Flamingo" proceeded to Gallipoli on the 16th instant, with orders for Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell and the Senior Officer of Her Majesty's ships in Besika Bay; she rejoined yesterday at this anchorage, when I again despatched her to Gallipoli with Mr. Joseph Harper, Torpedo Gunner of the "Alexandra," and a supply of gun-cotton, to be used under the Rear-Admiral's direction in case their Lordships' orders to destroy the heavy guns in the Dardanelles forts have to be carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Constantinople, February 13, 1878.

Sir,

THE Sultan has telegraphed to the Queen, earnestly requesting Her Majesty to countermand the orders given to you to bring a detachment of her fleet to Constantinople. His Majesty is convinced that as soon as English ships-of-war appear in the waters of his capital it will be occupied by the Russian troops, and His Majesty apprehends that their presence will lead to the most serious disasters to himself and to his Empire. His Majesty is now awaiting an answer to his appeal to the Queen, and has asked me to prevail upon you not to bring the ships under your command to anchor, but to remain at as great a distance as you conveniently can from land until he can hear whether Her Majesty has complied with his request that you should return to the Dardanelles.

I have informed His Majesty that you are acting under orders received from Her Majesty's Government, and that I have no power to control or interfere with your movements. But as His Majesty is so urgent upon me to make the above representation to you, I am unwilling to refuse to forward his request, leaving it to you to judge whether you can comply with it consistently with the orders you have received from Her Majesty's Government. In the event of your being able to do so I shall feel much obliged if you will send back the "Flamingo," which would then be at my

disposal to convey to you any answer the Sultan may receive from the Queen, or any instructions that may come to me from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 112.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 5.)

(Secret.)

Admiralty, March 5, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of 4th instant, inclosing a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, in which his Excellency expresses his opinion that the Porte might consent to the cable, which it has contracted for with the Eastern Telegraph Company, being laid from the Dardanelles to Constantinople, instead of to Lagos, if his Excellency was authorized to state that the terms would be the same as those contracted for with the Company for laying a cable to Lagos, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform the Earl of Derby that they consider it would be most desirable that the Porte should be induced to come to an arrangement with the Eastern Telegraph Company for carrying on the cable to Constantinople, as suggested by Mr. Layard.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JOHN H. GIFFARD, *pro Sec.*

No. 113.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March* 5.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 4 Mars, 1878.

LA paix a été signée hier, Dimanche, au coucher du soleil. Nous en avons reçu aujourd'hui l'instrument. Les ratifications seront échangées dans un délai de quinze jours.

Veuillez en informer le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 114.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 292.)

Pera, March 5, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PRIME MINISTER informs me that Grand Duke Nicholas assures him that the concentration of the Russian troops on the coast of the Sea of Marmora is with the object of commencing the embarkation for Russia as soon as the ratifications are exchanged. A certain number of Russian troops will be kept at San Stefano until the British ships repass the Dardanelles. Prime Minister gives me most positive assurance that there is no question whatever of the occupation by Russia of any position on the Bosphorus, and says that the Cossacks visited the villages referred to in my telegram No. 291, with a view of obtaining supplies of fodder and provisions. Porte is endeavouring to obtain the prolongation of the term of fifteen days for the exchange of ratifications, on the ground that it is impossible to effect it in the time given. I hope to see the Treaty to-night, but it will be only shown to me secretly.

No. 115.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 5.)

(No. 294.)

Pera, March 5, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

ADMIRAL HORNBY proposes to move with his ships to Ismid, as affording better anchorage, and greater facilities for procuring better supplies. Has your

Lordship any objection to his doing so? Ismid is in communication by telegraph and railway with Constantinople.

No. 116.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

IN asking if I can suggest any scheme applicable to Bulgaria as a tributary principality, do you (refer ?) to one suitable to provinces with sufficient self-government to control abuses, but still subject to some authority from the Porte?

If a tributary Bulgaria of some sort is unavoidable, every effort should be made to confine it to Bulgaria proper, north of the Balkans, the districts to the south of the mountains being in very different circumstances, in consequence of the large Greek population, whose position would be intolerable if absorbed into a large Slav State. Kiepert's map, upon which the proposals of the Constantinople Conference were based, is not a trustworthy authority; and it would be desirable, if possible, to obtain, through our own Agents and the Greek Patriarchate, returns of the number of Greek communities in districts which Russia proposes to include in Bulgaria.

No. 117.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No 52 Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic,)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

I (WAS) able last night to have a few minutes' conversation with the Emperor. His Majesty knew nothing of the Provisions of Peace as signed, but said, that though some of the first demands of Russia seem to have been modified, he could not conceive how she could consider it for her advantage or credit to put into a Treaty with Turkey conditions which are condemn(ed) inevitably to withdrawal. I alluded to extent intended to be given to proposed new Principality, and to the detriment it would cause to other than Bulgarian nationalities.

His Majesty said that it was precisely by advocating the cause of Greek and other Christians that designs of Russia should be combated.

I pointed out that if a new Bulgaria, extending to the Sea of Marmora and the Ægean, were to be created, it would cut the Greek populations in two, and fatally compromise their future development.

No. 118.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 53 ?)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY believes that fresh remonstrances have been made from Berlin to St. Petersburgh about delay offered to meeting of Conference, which he thinks likely to lead to an early decision being taken. In reply to my inquiry whether there was truth in a report that Berlin was likely to be the place of meeting, his Excellency answered there was some question of it, and for his own part, he was inclined to think it would be the best place, as facilitating the attendance of some Ministers for Foreign Affairs. When he first proposed a Conference to meet at Vienna, Count Andrassy was loud in his declaration that he would not consent to its being in any other great Capital; but his tone is now quite changed.

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY does not appear to have settled upon any proposals to be advanced by him at the Conference. He says that our business will be to examine and criticise Russian proposals, which will certainly not be capable of application. I said that it would not be sufficient for us to find fault with the Russian proposals without being able to suggest any alternative measures, and that our two Governments ought to be prepared beforehand with regard to the reorganization of the provinces. To this he assented, but said that the subject required reflection. The Turks considered that the conditions imposed upon them would make the future administration of them impossible for the Porte, and this was probable if the Western Provinces were to be separated from Constantinople by a tributary Principality. Moreover, other Christian nationalities could not be excluded from the advantages proposed to be given to the Bulgarians.

Count Andrassy sees less objection to the creation of an absolutely independent Bulgaria of limited extent than to the formation of a tributary Principality.

His language was, however, so vague that it is impossible to give your Lordship any clear statement of his views, but I believe him to mean that schemes applicable to all provinces, as well as to southern part of Bulgaria, should be elaborated in the Conference.

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

THE Roumanian Agent has just returned from Bucharest, where he describes the exasperation against Russians as intense. His opinion does not at all coincide with that of Colonel Mansfield, respecting adherence of Roumania to Russia in the event of a rupture with her. He says that he can guarantee that the Principality would take the other side.

No. 121.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to-day with great confidence of the preservation of peace if the British and Austrian Governments kept firmly together under the agreement already come to.

He was certain of getting his vote of credit from the Delegation, and he would be able to make some use of it even before the Austrian and Hungarian Chambers had voted the means of raising the money.

Russia could hope for no ally to support her, and would not resist the representations of England and Austria if convinced that the two Powers were in earnest.

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

THE Roumanian Agent tells me that his Government is quite resolved not to accept either the Dobrudscha or the Delta of the Danube as compensation for Bessarabia, as their acquisition would be injurious rather than beneficial.

No. 123.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 4. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 5, 1878.*

LAST night at a concert at Court in honour of the Crown Prince of Austria a report was in circulation that Count Andrassy wished the Conference to be held at Berlin.

I need scarcely say that the surrounding influences at Berlin would be as Russian as at St. Petersburgh.

No. 124.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 5, 1878.*

I AM confidentially informed that Prince Bismarck will not object to Austrian proposal to (hold) Conference at Berlin if the other Powers wish it.

No. 125.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, March 5, 1878.*

YESTERDAY Prince of Montenegro telegraphed to Demarcative Commission that peace having been concluded, it was no longer necessary for it to continue its labours. It therefore dissolved, and the Turkish Delegate arrived here last night. Only two formal meetings had been held, and the demarcation has not been made, the military position remaining as before.

No. 126.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, March 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 2nd instant, the Persian Minister strenuously denies that any communication has passed between Persia and Russia respecting Kotur, either here or elsewhere, or that there is any secret understanding for cession of any portion of Persian Caspian Coast, and further states that if proposal for such cession should be made, it would be resolutely resisted by the Shah.

No. 127.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 5, 1878, 6 P.M.*

ENDEAVOUR to obtain as soon as possible, through our own Agents and the Greek Patriarchate, returns of the number of Greek communities in districts which Russia proposes to include in Bulgaria.

No. 129.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 320.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 5, 1878.*

IT is desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be in possession of full and accurate information as to the number of Greek communities in the districts which Russia proposes to include in Bulgaria.

I have consequently to request that you will instruct Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls to furnish you with returns of these communities; and I have further to suggest that you should apply to the Greek Patriarchate for information on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 130.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 23. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February 25, 1878.*

EARLY yesterday morning 2,000 armed Christians came down from the hills which inclose the Bay of Suda on the south, and began firing into the arsenal at the head of the bay, and into the fortifications of Izzedin, towards its entrance. Two battalions of regular troops and a few hundred zaptiehs and Bashi-Bazouks were ordered to drive the mountaineers back, and as they advanced in skirmishing order up the hills, which are here about 1,500 ft. high, they had no difficulty in dislodging their assailants. Two Turkish vessels meanwhile got up steam, and played with their cannon on the retreating enemy. By noon they had all disappeared, the demonstration resulting in the loss of not more than eight or ten killed and wounded on either side. This is a conjectural computation drawn from several sources, Costaki Pasha having read me a report yesterday evening, which stated that two soldiers and a zaptieh had been killed, while this morning he sent me word that none were killed. It is plain that his Excellency wishes to conceal the losses sustained by the troops, in order not to exasperate the Mussulman population. In the afternoon 1,000 men more appeared beyond the village of Galata, an hour to the west of this town, and firing was heard in that direction till the evening, but the same uncertainty prevails here also as to the loss in killed and wounded. This morning reports arrive that fighting has been renewed a few miles to the south-west of Canea.

These hostile demonstrations, enacted within a week after the drawing up by the General Assembly of the Memorial of which I had the honour of transmitting your Lordship a translation in my last despatch, a Memorial in which they formally declared that they had no intention of engaging in a struggle with the Porte, have excited no little surprise, and it is generally believed that they have occurred contrary to the wishes of the Assembly. It is well known that that body has imperfect control over the doings of the chiefs recently arrived from Greece, who are rather inclined to look for orders to the country which has supplied them with money and munitions of war.

Costaki Pasha called the principal Mussulman inhabitants together yesterday afternoon, and found them resolute in demanding that 1,000 of their co-religionists should be enrolled and armed as Bashi-Bazouks, in order to protect the numerous refugee families who have fled to the neighbourhood of this town. His Excellency firmly resisted their demand, but consented reluctantly that in case of necessity he would issue arms, on the local Moslem gentry who were present engaging that they should be given up again as soon as the necessity for their use should be over. He fears lest there should be a repetition here of the scenes which lately occurred near Rethymo, where five Christian villages, and not two, as I had reported, were more or less ruined by the same class of the population. His Excellency, who has just been to see me, tells me that 300 Peabody-Martini rifles were issued, by some misunderstanding, last night, but that he was resolved to prevent a further distribution. To confirm him in this resolve, he tells me that he has just received the news that last night a number of Bashi-Bazouks, who had been previously armed for the sake of preserving order, have been robbing in several Christian villages in the promontory of Akrotiri, which

forms the northern boundary of Suda Bay, that they beat several Christians, and killed one. Murders of Christians are also reported from other places near here.

Your Lordship will thus see that the situation of affairs here is far from re-assuring. Costaki Pasha is incessantly demanding that more troops and money should be sent him, but his solicitations are left unheeded.

His Excellency has just informed me confidentially that he intends to send in his resignation to the Porte, as, left as he is without the means of government, his position is untenable. Although I hope that order in this town is not seriously menaced, the presence of one of Her Majesty's vessels would certainly conduce to a sense of security.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—As cyphered telegrams are not received at the telegraph station here, I am sending one to be transmitted from Syra, briefly announcing that fighting is going on between the insurgents and the Government forces.

T. B. S.

No. 131.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 24. Political.)
Canea, Crete, February 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour, in my last despatch, to state to your Lordship that no little surprise had been created at the outbreak of hostilities so soon after the General Assembly of the Cretans had declared in their Memorial that they had no intention of engaging in a struggle with the Porte. I am convinced, and it is a conviction shared by most, that the movement has been set on foot contrary to the wishes of the Assembly and the people generally, and that the blame attaching to it must be laid exclusively at the door of the Chiefs lately come from Greece. It occurred to me that if the General Assembly had the support of the Consular Corps in Canea, their united weight might induce the Chiefs to cease from their attacks, the futility of which, under present circumstances, is only too apparent. With this object in view, I called upon the Vali, in my character as Doyen of the Consular Corps (having previously assured myself of the concurrence of my Italian colleague, who is possessed of considerable influence with the Christians, and having little doubt of the co-operation of the rest), and asked his Excellency whether he thought that our good offices could be of any avail in stopping the further useless effusion of blood, but, I added, that we could take no steps except on his Excellency's invitation. Costaki Pasha received my suggestion very cordially, and thought that our services might be most useful, but he hesitated on his own responsibility to invite us to take the step proposed, and promised to telegraph for the necessary authority from the Porte. This morning his Excellency called upon me and said that on reflection he thought it wiser not to request our good offices for fear of exciting the susceptibilities of the Mahometan population, who are just now in an angry mood. The subject has thus been allowed to drop. Costaki Pasha is in a peculiarly difficult position in the present crisis, by reason of his religious faith, for my belief is that a Mussulman Vali would have gladly availed himself of the support the Consular Body might afford him.

Your Lordship having already authorized me to use my good offices, in co-operation with the authorities, in endeavouring to bring about a better understanding between the latter and their discontented subjects, I was emboldened to take the step explained above, believing it to be in conformity with the spirit of my general instructions. I had proposed that we should write a joint letter to the General Assembly, pointing out the inopportuneness of the present movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 132.

Consul-General Fawcett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 27. Consular.)
Constantinople, February 25, 1878.

My Lord,

IN obedience with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram I had the honour to address to your Lordship to-day the following telegram:—

"Number British subjects who registered in 1876 was 2,264, in 1877 2,111, and in 1878 2,620, in each year 800 at least are not registered."

The above number of 800 consists chiefly of poor Maltese who live in the villages on the Bosphorus, and who from want of means do not take the registration tickets.

I beg to add that I am obliged to grant, *in forma pauperis*, registration certificates to many Maltese and even British subjects who are really indigent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY FAWCETT.

No. 133.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 204.)
Paris, March 3, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY I spoke to M. Cullimaki Catargi in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 760 of the 27th ultimo, on the subject of the Circular to its Agents abroad, in which his Government has requested the Great Powers to recognize at once the independence of Roumania, and to admit a Roumanian Representative to the proposed Conference.

I said to him that the Circular would receive due attention from Her Majesty's Government, but that with every desire on their part to show their goodwill towards the Government of Roumania, they were not prepared at the present moment to express an opinion upon the questions raised in that document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 134.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 5, 1878, 1:30 p.m.*

I HAVE been officially informed by the Porte that all persons entering or leaving the Ottoman Dominions must, until further notice, provide themselves with passports duly visé by the Ottoman authorities.

No. 135.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 206.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 5, 1878, 11:30 p.m.*

THE Grand Duke Nicholas will come here on Thursday. The Sultan will receive him in strictly private audience. His Majesty earnestly requests me to ask Her Majesty's Government to assist him in removing as soon as possible the Russian army from the vicinity of Constantinople; as it is, he says, a constant source of danger, and it will not leave as long as the British squadron is in the Sea of Marmora. I have a copy of the Treaty, which will go by messenger; a summary will be sent by telegraph to-morrow.

No. 136.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 297.) *Pera, March* 6, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
I HAVE just received your Lordship's summary of Treaty of Peace, which is in accordance with copy I have obtained. Does your Lordship desire a summary of latter by telegraph?

No. 137.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 6.) *Berlin, March* 6, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
AUSTRIAN and Russian Governments, having agreed to Berlin instead of Baden for the Congress, Prince Bismarck has consented to withdraw his previous objections, and to assent to their wish on condition that England and the other Powers also agree.

No. 138.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 6.)

(No. 7. Secret.) *Berlin, March* 6, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)
MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that both Count Andrassy and Prince Gortchakow, being anxious to attend in person, wish for the Conference to be transferred from Baden to Berlin.

Prince Bismarck, not wishing to stand in the way of its early meeting, is willing to assent if the other Powers agree.

German Ambassador at London will be instructed to consult with your Lordship on the question.

No. 139.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1878, 3:10 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)
IN reply to your telegram No. 297, as you report in your telegram No. 296, that you have now got a copy of the Treaty, Her Majesty's Government wish to have a full summary showing all the points not sufficiently indicated in Count Schouvaloff's summary, especially as to boundaries of Bulgaria and provisions as to autonomous provinces.

No. 140.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, March 6, 1878, 6:30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)
IN reply to your telegram No. 294, I have consulted Board of Admiralty, who see no objection to Admiral's proposal to proceed to Ismid.

No. 141.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1878, 6:45 P.M.
ADMIRALTY consider it would be most desirable that Porte should be induced to come to an arrangement with the Eastern Telegraph Company for carrying on the cable to Constantinople, as suggested in your telegram No. 287 of 3rd instant.

No. 142.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 321.) *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1878.
Sir,
I HAVE received your despatch No. 253 of the 19th ultimo, reporting the steps which you have taken in consequence of the statement made on the authority of Server Pasha by the correspondent of the "Daily News," and inclosing a Memorandum which you addressed to the Prime Minister on the subject; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 143.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 322.) *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1878.
Sir,
I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 240 of the 17th ultimo, explaining the circumstances under which, at various times, you have telegraphed information to Her Majesty's Government respecting the Russian advance upon Constantinople, and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government consider that the explanation given by you is entirely satisfactory, and they place the greatest confidence in your endeavours to keep them accurately informed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 144.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 323. Secret.) *Foreign Office, March* 6, 1878.
Sir,
YOUR despatch No. 257, Secret, of the 20th ultimo, has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have read with interest your Excellency's account of your conversation with the Sultan on the subject of the defence of the Gallipoli peninsula, and the suggested occupation under certain circumstances by Her Britannic Majesty's forces of the forts on the Asiatic shore of the Dardanelles, and they approve the language which you held to His Majesty on that occasion.

I have to request that you will take an opportunity of expressing to the Sultan in befitting terms the satisfaction felt by the Queen and Her Majesty's Government at the confidence shown by His Majesty in your Excellency in thus frankly communicating personally with you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 145.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 326.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1878.*

Sir,

I HAVE consulted the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty on the subject of your telegram No. 284 of the 5th instant, in which you state the reasons why Admiral Hornby proposes to move the ships under his command to Ismid, and I have now to state to your Excellency that I am informed that their Lordships have no objection to offer to the Admiral's proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 328.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1878.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 287 of the 3rd instant, I transmit to your Excellency herewith a copy of a letter from the Admiralty, from which you will perceive that their Lordships consider that it would be most desirable that the Porte should be induced to come to an arrangement with the Eastern Telegraph Company for carrying on the proposed new cable to Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 147.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 198.) *Foreign Office, March 6, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 217 of the 15th ultimo, reporting what passed at an interview which you had with Prince Gortchakow on that day with reference to the passage of the British fleet through the Dardanelles and the question of the occupation by Russia of the Gallipoli peninsula, and inclosing copies of two memoranda which you handed to his Highness on that occasion; and I have to state to you that your proceedings in this matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 148.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 24. Political.) *Scutari, February 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 22, Political, of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit, herewith, the copy of a despatch addressed this day by me to Mr. Layard, reporting to His Excellency that the Mussulman troops are continuing their march of destruction in Mirdicia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, February 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have this afternoon been shown a letter written by a trustworthy person in Mirdicia, in which it is stated that the Mussulman forces are now in the district of X'thela, destroying and ravaging everything.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 149.

Count Beust to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

Belgrave Square, le 7 Mars, 1878.

M. le Comte,

EN vue des graves questions à décider, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal attache la plus grande importance à la réunion—non d'une Conférence—mais d'un Congrès, auquel prendraient part les Premiers Ministers ("leitende Minister")[a] des Grandes Puissances. Il n'est guère permis d'espérer qu'une réunion dans des telles conditions pourrait avoir lieu à Bade, mais, d'après les informations parvenues à mon Gouvernement, le choix de Berlin comme siége du Congrès assurerait sa réunion. Par conséquent j'ai l'honneur de retirer, au nom du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale et Royale Apostolique, la proposition relative à la réunion d'une Conférence à Bade, qui avait été acceptée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Mon Gouvernement est d'avis qu'un Congrès des Puissances dans les conditions ci-dessus énoncées aurait le plus de chance d'arriver à des résultats pratiques si ce Congrès se réunissait à Berlin. Le Cabinet de Berlin s'est déjà déclaré prêt à inviter les Puissances à s'y réunir en Congrès, aussitôt que nous sommes en mesure de l'assurer de l'adhésion des autres Cabinets. Le Cabinet Allemand se réserve de fixer la date de la réunion.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien me mettre à même d'informer mon Gouvernement, aussi tôt que faire se pourra, de la décision à laquelle sera arrivé le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) BEUST.

No. 150.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 3.) *Rome, March 6, 1878, 10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

M. DEPRETIS has spoken to me to-day respecting reports from Vienna relative to possible occupation by Austria of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and even Albania. His Excellency says that he cannot credit them, for such a step would have no advantage as a military measure against Russia, and would result in an unjustifiable participation by Austria in the dismemberment of Turkey, which Empire she has always professed the desire to uphold, and of which the Powers ought to try to save as much as possible.

Russian Ambassador here has made a communication respecting terms of peace similar to that received by your Lordship from Count Schouvaloff on the 4th instant.

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[a] Beust explains that this does not mean Prime Minister. Count Andrassy is not Prime Minister, but will attend.

No. 151.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 6, 1878, 5·15 P.M.

Twenty-nine Articles.—First relates to Montenegro and defines its frontiers, including Antivari. An European Commission, in which Russia and Montenegro will be represented, will fix limits and settle questions of navigation of the Boyana.

Second declares the independence of Montenegro, and refers to future relations between it and the Porte. In case of difference, Austria and Russia to arbitrate. Montenegrin troops to evacuate territory not ceded within ten days of signature of preliminaries.

Third defines frontiers of Servia. Ada Kaleo to be razed.

Fourth provides for settlement of question as to the property of Mussulmans in the new Servian territory within two years, and what had been property within three. Servian troops to evacuate territory not ceded within fifteen days.

Fifth. Independence of Roumania. Indemnity to be settled between her and Turkey.

Sixth constitutes Bulgaria a tributary autonomious Principality, with Christian Government and a national militia. Limits to be defined upon evacuation by Russian troops, by a Turco-Russian Commission, which will decide according to nationality of the majority and to topographical necessity and practical interests of the (?) population. Defines general limits.

Seventh. Prince to be elected and confirmed by the Porte with the consent of the Powers. No member of reigning dynasty of the Great Powers to be elected. Assembly of Notables to meet at Philippopolis or Tirnova, upon election of Prince, to elaborate system of superintendence of Russian Commission, and in the presence of Turkish Commissioner, the organization of the administration. In any mixed population, the rights and interests of each to be considered. Introduction and superintendence of the new system to be confided for two years to a Russian Commission; after one year Porte, Russia, and European Cabinets can, upon agreement, add special delegates to the Commission.

Eighth. All Turkish troops to be withdrawn from Bulgaria and the fortresses razed at expense of local (tax ?). Turkey to dispose of material of war. 50,000 Russian troops to occupy Principality until necessary national militia is formed, and for a period of about two years. Russian troops to be supported by the occupied country, and will maintain their communications with Russia through Roumania and by the ports of the Black Sea.

Ninth. Tribute of Bulgaria to be fixed by Turkey and Russia and the European Powers.

Tenth. Military roads across Bulgaria, and postal and telegraphic lines are secured to Turkey.

Eleventh. Mussulmans to retain property, and their interests to be settled by joint Commission under Russian superintendence, within two years. All property not claimed within this time to be sold for the benefit of Christian and Mussulman widows and orphans, victims of the war.

Twelfth. Fortresses on the Danube to be razed; no war vessels to remain on the river. Rights of International Commission remain intact.

Thirteenth. Turkey to re-establish navigation of Sulina mouth of the Danube.

Fourteenth. Arrangement for Bosnia and Herzegovina that proposed at first sitting of the Conference.

Fifteenth. Organization of Law of 1868 to be strictly applied in Crete, the wishes of the population being at the same time considered. Similar organization to be applied to Thessaly and Epirus and other provinces.

Sixteenth. Reforms for Armenia and guarantees against Kurds and Circassians.

Seventeenth. General amnesty.

Eighteenth relates to Kurfour.

Nineteenth. War indemnity, viz.:—900,000,000 roubles, war expenses; 400,000,000 roubles, damage done to the southern coast; 100,000,000 roubles, damage to Caucasus; 15,000,000 roubles, damage to Russian interests in Turkey; cession of Dobrudscha and part of Armenia taken as equivalent to 1,100,000,000 roubles; guarantee for 800,000,000 roubles to be settled privately between the two Governments.

Twentieth. Pending questions between Russia and Turkey to be settled immediately.

Twenty-first. Sale of property of emigrants from new Russian territory to be effected within three years on pain of becoming Russian subjects. Turco-Russian Commission to regulate sale of land belonging to Vacouf properties and withdrawal of munitions of war from ceded territory.

Twenty-second. Privileges and protection for Russian ecclesiastic establishments.

Twenty-third. Former Treaties to be renewed.

Twenty-fourth. Straits to be opened to neutral commerce even during war. No fictitious blockade to be established in the Black Sea.

Twenty-fifth. Russian troops to embark in Sea of Marmora and Black Sea to return home in Russian ships-of-war.

Twenty-sixth. Local administration in occupied provinces to remain Russian until evacuation of troops.

Twenty-seventh. No punishment to be inflicted upon Ottoman subjects for services rendered to Russian army.

Twenty-eighth. Exchange of prisoners.

Twenty-ninth. Ratification of Treaty.

The above has been communicated to me in strict confidence, and I must request your Lordship not to let it be known that I have it.

No. 152.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 7, 1878.

BOUNDARY of Bulgaria on leaving Servian frontier follows line of Conference as far as Mount Korab; then down River Weletschitza to the Black Drina; up the latter along western limit of Ochrida to Mount Sinas; then by border of Gortcha to Mount Grammos; thence by Kastonia to the River Moglenitza, down the same south of Janitza to mouths of Wardar, and by Galliko to the villages of Parga and Serai-Keui, through Lake Beshikgueul to mouth of Rivers Strouma and Karason, and along coast to Burugueul. Then north-west to Mount Tchalitépé, by the Rhodope Chain to Mount Kruschowa, along Black Balkans and the Mountains of Eschok Koulatzi, Tchépékéré, Karakolar, and Ischiklar to the River Arda. Thence towards Tchirmin, and, leaving Adrianople to the south, through the villages of Kara Hausa, Arnaoutkeui, Akardji, and Yenidje up to River Tchekderessi. Thence along that river and the Tchorla-deressi to Loulé Bourgas, and then by the Sanjakdéré to the village of Sergneu, and along heights to Hakim Tabiassi on the Euxine.

The boundary leaves the coast near Mangalia, follows the southern line of district of Tultcha, and joins the Danube above Rassova.

The Treaty having been communicated to me secretly, it must not be known that I possess it until after the exchange of ratifications.

No. 153.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 8. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, March 7, 1878.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that the Emperor has assented to the wishes of the Russian and Austrian Governments in regard to holding the Conference at Berlin.

It now rests with the Austrian Government, his Excellency said, to obtain the consent of the other Powers to proposed change. Until then the German Government will take no further action in the matter.

No. 154.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 7.*)

Odessa, March 7, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the Black Sea goes to Constantinople to-morrow from mouth of the river Bug in steamer "Ucadia," in order to confer with Grand Duke Nicholas. Steam-ship "Vladimir" has gone for Russian Ambassador.

No. 155.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 329. Secret.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 288, Most Secret, of the 15th ultimo, giving an account of your interview with the Sultan on that day, has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to His Majesty on that occasion on the subject of the threatened Russian advance on Constantinople, the movements of the British fleet, and the Sultan's appeal to Her Majesty's Government for help to enable him to defend his capital.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 156.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 330.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 260 of the 21st ultimo, inquiring what steps had been taken for supplying the Turkish prisoners of war with sheep-skin coats, I have to inform you that I have received a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, stating that, in reply to a second representation made by his Excellency on this subject, he has received a note from the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that, on the receipt of his first representation, application was made to the Minister of War, and that now an application has been made to the Chief of the Staff, the result of which will be duly communicated to Lord A. Loftus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 157.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 174 a.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1878.

Sir,

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a note which was delivered to me this afternoon by Count Beust containing the Austrian proposal that the Congress shall meet at Berlin.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 158.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 175. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 7, 1878.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador delivered to me this afternoon a note, of which I inclose a copy herewith,* proposing that the forthcoming Conference or Congress should

* No. 149.

be held at Berlin, with the view of securing the attendance of leading members of the Cabinets who are to be represented in it.

His Excellency informed me that he was instructed, at the same time, to inform me confidentially that the Austrian Government would maintain in the Congress the points on which they had come to an agreement with that of Her Majesty, and expected that England would take the same course.

Count Andrassy, he said, was convinced that this was the only means by which peace could be maintained, as in this manner Russia would be unable to oppose each Power separately. The Austrian Government expected also to secure the support of other Powers.

Count Beust added that, in order to be prepared for emergencies, the Austrian Government would ask for a credit of 60,000,000 florins from the Delegations which are about to meet. This measure, he stated, was one of greater significance than the vote of credit obtained by Her Majesty's Government, inasmuch as preliminary preparations were required to place England in a state of readiness for warlike operations, whereas the money obtained by the Austrian Government could only be required for the purpose of actual mobilization.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 159.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 8.*)

(No. 271.)
Constantinople, February 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report addressed to me by Mr. Dragoman Marinitch, of a communication made to him by a deputation of Circassian Chiefs who waited upon me, and whom I have declined to see. I have directed Mr. Marinitch to inform them that all I could do is to forward their statement to your Lordship without holding out any hope that it may meet with a favourable consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Report.

(Confidential.)

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que les Chefs Circassiens de la Roumélie et de l'Anatolie viennent de me remettre une requête en Turc par laquelle ils exposent à votre Excellence, en la priant de vouloir bien communiquer au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté les faits et vœux suivants.

Les Circassiens qui ont émigré de la Russie en Turquie étaient installés jusqu'à ce jour en Roumélie et en Anatolie dans les localités que le Gouvernement Impérial leur avait désignées et où ils se sont colonisés et livrés à l'agriculture. Ils se sont fait un devoir, chaque fois que le Gouvernement Impérial le leur a demandé, de s'empresser de mettre à la disposition de l'Etat le nombre de troupes auxiliaires qu'on leur a demandé et se sont efforcés par leur courage sur les champs de bataille de reconnaître l'hospitalité qui leur avait été offerte par la Turquie. Ils ont sévi avec rigueur à l'égard des Circassiens qui s'étaient livrés à des actes contraires à la loi pour laquelle ils ont toujours professé du respect et de l'obéissance. Aujourd'hui ils sont forcés de quitter leurs foyers, d'abandonner leurs champs, victimes de la guerre actuelle, et ils voient avec regret que le Gouvernement Impérial, loin de tenir compte de leurs services, use à leur égard d'une rigueur et d'une sévérité sans mesure en dispersant leurs familles et en les forçant de passer tous en Asie; voulant ainsi punir toute la nation Circassienne et la tenir responsable des méfaits commis par quelques uns des leurs, méfaits qu'ils sont les premiers à déplorer. Ils trouvent qu'il n'est pas juste de condamner des innocents pour les coupables. Les Circassiens se plaignent de ce que les Turcs leur attribuent leurs défaites, tandis que ceux-ci prétendent au contraire que dans plusieurs occasions ils ont contribué à relever l'honneur de l'armée Ottomane. Le Gouvernement Impérial refuse même de leur fournir les moyens

nécessaires pour subsister, et les fait arrêter partout comme des assassins par la police, sans faire de distinction et les exile sans enquête. Ces procédés sont contraires à la justice et à l'équité.

En présence de ces circonstances, rien ne les attachent plus à la Turquie, les Circassiens implorent la protection Britannique, et ils déclarent être prêts à se rendre dans une des possessions Anglaises, confidants que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté saura apprécier les qualités du peuple Circassien. Ils s'engagent à se soumettre aux lois du pays, pourvu que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté les laisse libres de professer leur culte religieux. Ils promettent respect et obéissance à la loi dont ils sont prêts à subir les rigueurs; en cas contraire, ils s'engagent en outre de fournir au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté les troupes dont il pourrait avoir besoin en cas de guerre.

Dans le cas où le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne daignerait pas accueillir favorablement les propositions que le peuple Circassien, y compris celui résidant en Russie, lui fait spontanément, les soussignés Hanéghir Bey, Chef des Circassiens de Roumélie, et Hadji Mohmed Bey, Chef des Circassiens d'Anatolie, supplient votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire des démarches auprès de son Altesse le Premier Ministre, afin qu'ils ne soient plus persécutés et que le Gouvernement Ottoman veuille les traiter avec justice et équité à l'instar des autres sujets qui vivent sous l'égide de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

(Signé) HUGO MARINITSCH.

Péra, le 22 Février, 1878.

No. 160.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 274.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the official explanation given by the Porte to the public with reference to the entry of a detachment of the British fleet into the Sea of Marmora, and the consequent occupation of the village of San Stefano by the Grand Duke Nicholas and Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Extract from "La Turquie" of February 25, 1878.

VOICI la traduction de la communication officielle dont nous avons parlé dans notre édition d'hier :—

"Attendu que quelques-uns des navires de la flotte Anglaise, stationnant depuis quelque temps dans la baie de Bésika, ont franchi le Détroit des Dardanelles et sont venus amicalement mouiller dans le Golfe de Moudania, à cause de la situation actuelle;

"Attendu qu'avant cet événement, le Gouvernement Impérial ayant conclu l'armistice avec la Russie, celle-ci avait également demandé à faire entrer, sans aucun but hostile, quelques bataillons à Constantinople;

"A la suite d'une correspondance télégraphique échangée entre Sa Majesté le Sultan et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie demandant qu'une partie de l'armée Russe s'établisse provisoirement à Buyuk-Tchekmedjé et à Kutchuk-Tchekmedjé, cette proposition a été soumise à un Conseil Général, convoqué spécialement par Sa Majesté le Sultan au Palais Impérial;

"Le Conseil auquel ont pris part tous les Ministres, ainsi que les Ulémas et les hauts fonctionnaires civils et militaires, en activité et en disponibilité, a décidé d'accéder à cette demande de la Russie, demande conforme aux exigences des circonstances;

"En vertu de cette décision, le Gouvernement Impérial a accordé l'autorisation nécessaire pour que Son Altesse le Grand Duc Nicolas, avec sa suite particulière, composée de 1,000 à 1,200 personnes, les officiers et serviteurs, vienne s'établir provisoirement à San-Stéfano.

"Le mode d'installation des troupes Russes dans les localités précitées a été réglé

et la nouvelle ligne de démarcation est fixée. Personne ne pourra, sans permission préalable, franchir cette ligne.

"Des mécmours ont été nommés pour la mise à exécution de cette règle."

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 276.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a dispatch from Mr. Longworth, respecting the invasion of Thessaly by Greek bands, and the insurrectionary movement in that province. Mr. Longworth gives some information as to the relative numbers of the Mussulman and Christian populations which may be useful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Karditza, February* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams in Turkish, to and from your Excellency, relative to the insurrectionary movements in Thessaly.

The substance of the one from me dated Karditza, January 25/February 6, 1878, informed your Excellency that about 300 insurgents had crossed over into Agrapha, and as more were being expected every day, requested to know whether I had better not remain along the frontier.

By your Excellency's telegraphic answer received this morning, I am instructed to do so, wherever circumstances indicate as best, and to keep the Embassy regularly informed of what is occurring.

In pursuance of these instructions, I leave to-morrow for Domoko, which will shortly become, I believe, the principal scene of the insurrection, owing to its geographical position and military importance.

I have this day received some further information with regard to the Greek bands in the district of Volo, made the subject of my last two despatches.

It appears that the 150 insurgents took refuge in a monastery near the village of Macrynitza, from the three companies of Redifs sent in pursuit of them. On the 26th January, the troops stormed the monastery and set fire to it. But the insurgents made good their escape, after killing thirty-two and wounding several, without any loss on their side.

I am also told that another band of 500 insurgents landed in that district, besides three bands in the vicinity of Armyro, with three Krupp guns. The latter had an engagement near Armyro, on the 30th January, and came off victorious.

Taking the full view of the actual state of affairs in these parts, the prospect is very threatening. To the north and east are the numerous Christian villages of Mount Canhounion, Olympus, Ossa, and Pelion, with their bold, daring mountaineers, who, driven to the verge of exasperation by the outrages of the irregular levies, are ready to rise, and will rise if the Hellenic Greeks give them the slightest assistance.

In fact, I am assured that the four detached yet confederate bands of brigands infesting those mountains, headed by Panagoti Calojheros, are not simply brigands, but political agitators, who are awaiting a force from Greece to descend into the plains. This might be prevented, were the Turkish Government to keep one or two gun-boats constantly cruising along those shores.

To the south though there are the three well fortified towns of Armyro, Domoko, and Phanasi, yet the insufficiency of the Turkish forces along the frontiers and the mountainousness of the country, render the defensive very incomplete.

To form a better idea of the Turkish forces, I shall here give a tabular view of the troops now in Thessaly :—

Districts.	Regulars.	Irregulars.	Total.	Guns.
Larissa	2,600	1,800	4,500	28
Volo	600	..	600	20
Armyro	1,470	900	2,370	5
Pharsala and Domoko	1,800	..	1,800	12
Karditza and Phanasi	1,810	1,030	2,840	6
Tricala	780	550	1,330	12
Total	9,060	4,280	13,440	83

Besides the above, there are 2,600 Mustaphis, 1,300 gendarmes, 1,400 frontier guards; a field, and two mountain batteries.

By the side of this, it would be valuable to know the relative number of Christian and Mahometan population in this province, which is as follows:—

Population of Thessaly.

District.	Christian.	Mussulman.
Larissa	30,800	9,500
Volo	24,200	1,200
Tricala	33,200	1,000
Karditza	24,200	1,300
Elliasson	16,800	1,800
Pharsala	7,600	1,900
Armyro	4,700	600
Total	141,500	16,900

In addition to the above, there are the nomadic tribes of Vlach shepherds, 14,000; Bulgarian masons, 3,000; Ghega shepherds, 2,000; and Circassian settlers, 1,100; besides 3,600 Jews.

It is difficult to state exactly the number of people in Thessaly that are likely to join the revolutionary cause; 50,000 is given as the maximum and 10,000 as the minimum, principally consisting of Christian inhabitants from self-governing villages. By self-governing villages, I mean villages of the mountains, as those in the plains are invariably Mahometan, or Mahometan estates tenanted by Christians.

Before concluding, I should observe that great fear prevails throughout the country from the irregular levies of Turkas, Ghegas, and Zeibecks now in force. As they are even now showing signs of mutiny, it is apprehended that during these disorders, they will indulge in all manner of lawlessness. The weather is very unfavourable for hostilities, there is a great deal of snow in the mountains and floods in the plains.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

No. 162.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 8.*)

(No. 277.) *Constantinople, February 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1457 of the 8th December last relating to a report addressed to me by Consul Reade on the alleged execution of a Bulgarian named Dragoilo on account of his refusal to part with a buffalo to a Turkish functionary, and to your Lordship's despatch No. 913 of the 27th December last on the same subject, I have the honour to state that I have been constantly pressing the Porte to inform me of the result of the inquiry that it has promised me to make into the matter. I have at length received from it the inclosed letter from the Mutessarif of Varna, who, as your Lordship will perceive, absolutely denies the truth of the statements made to Mr. Reade, to whom I have sent a copy of the letter for any observations that he may have to make upon it.

I also beg to inclose copy of a further despatch which I received a short time ago from Mr. Reade on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

The Mutessarif of Varna to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.) *Le 11 Janvier* 1878.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre que votre Altesse a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 4 Zilhidje m'ordonnant d'ouvrir immédiatement une enquête minutieuse au sujet de la pendaison du Bulgare nommé "Dinyetton Bendeljar Orah," provoquée, à ce qu'on dit, par les instigations de Cadri Effendi, Directeur de la Correspondance Turque à Varna, lequel lui aurait gardé rancune pour avoir refusé de lui délivrer sa propriété.

Votre Altesse a bien voulu ajouter que ce Bulgare, ayant été pendu après avoir subi un imprisonnement de trois mois par ordre de la Cour Martiale, sa pendaison aurait produit la plus pénible impression et qu'il importait d'examiner les faits allégués pour lui rendre compte, sans retard, du résultat de l'enquête.

Avant tout, je me permettrai de faire remarquer à votre Altesse que le directeur de la correspondance Turque à Varna ne s'appelle pas Cadri, mais bien Halil Effendi; ce dernier ne se serait jamais abaissé à commettre de pareils actes.

Aucun individu de ce nom n'a été jusqu'ici emprisonné à Varna, soit pour être pendu soit pour y subir sa détention.

Trois Bulgares du nom de Nedalcho, fils de Radosch, Toloyan, fils de Keno, et Donteho, fils de Constantin, avaient été condamnés à mort par arrêt de la Cour Martiale pour avoir fait les espions à l'ennemi. Ils ont été examinés minutieusement, et ce n'est qu'après que leur crime a été prouvé par des données sérieuses qu'ils ont été exécutés.

En conséquence, les bruits dont il s'agit ne sont que des allégations mensongères.

(Signé) FAIRI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, January 12, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch of the 11th ultimo, relative to the Bulgarian Dragoilo, alleged to have been hanged at Varna, as reported in my despatch of the 30th November last, I have the honour to report that the day after my return to this, on the 4th instant, I called on the Mutessarif of Varna in order to ascertain if any inquiry had been instituted here into the case in question.

Fahri Bey stated that, in reply to a communication he had received from the Porte, he had transmitted the names of three Bulgarians who had been hanged here, in order to ascertain which was the man alluded to; but he afterwards said to me that he had inquired into the matter of the hanging of the Shumla Bulgarian (meaning Dragoilo, of course, as no other Shumla man has been hanged here), and had found that his sentence was just. He, however, did not furnish me with the grounds, and conformably to what I stated to your Excellency privately from Rustchuk on the 15th ultimo, I could as plainly perceive as possible his fear of the persons here I have mentioned to your Excellency, and my impression was fully confirmed when he begged me not to let them know that he had spoken to me on the subject.

Although what I recently heard at Shumla—from Mussulmans as well as Christians—more and more convinced me of the truth of the report I had transmitted to your Excellency, still, as it is necessary to bring forward actual evidence in support of such a case, perhaps I should not have reported the case officially, but if I am to produce evidence in such a manner, and at such a moment as the present, what irregularity would be brought to your Excellency's knowledge, or that of Her Majesty's Government?

What Mussulmans as well as Christians at Shumla said to me precisely coincided with what was said here, viz., that Dragoilo was hanged simply because he would not give up his buffalo.

But I will for a moment return to supposed motives of his first arrest.

Had he been convicted of being a Russian spy he certainly would have got more than three months' imprisonment. No Bulgarian as yet has survived the slightest conviction on this ground.

If he was found guilty of having imprecated the Sultan, as we are in Turkey, the three months he got are explained, and as he was hanged at the expiration of his term of sentence is it for a moment to be believed that he spied for the Russians, or

swore at the Sultan in his prison, surrounded by police, prison guards, and all sorts and sects of people?

If his sentence was a just one, why have kept it so secret? Not one of his relatives or friends here, or at Shumla, have been able to obtain the slightest clue as to its motives.

All Dragoilo's papers, moreover, here and at Shumla, were seized and examined, and I have it from good authority that not one in the slightest way compromising was found.

A Mussulman at Shumla, after his death, came down here on purpose to find out why they had hanged him, but utterly failed in ascertaining anything beyond the fact that he was condemned on the very day the intelligence of the taking of Kars reached this, which tended to incense the Mussulman mind more and more, and which, my informant said, no doubt hastened on his condemnation to death.

I must here state to your Excellency that at Shumla I obtained much information on this sad subject, but only after giving my word of honour not to disclose a single name.

A person at Shumla hearing that Dragoilo was before the Egyptian Tribunal at Varna, and knowing the poor man's good character, indirectly advised his wife to petition that, as he was a native of Shumla, to have his case transferred to the military Tribunal there; she did so, but the petition was at once torn up in her face.

Dragoilo had several partners at Shumla, who, on his being hanged, were seized and imprisoned for about ten days, and I was told how they were never informed why they were incarcerated, and, moreover, how they obtained their liberty.

Dragoilo was so popular with the Mussulmans that I was assured on oath that he could have obtained from them alone guarantees to any extent and amount, and it was only from fear of the high authorities at Varna that they did not come here at the first to offer it; but I was told by one, that had they entertained the slightest idea that he was in any danger of being hanged, they would have risked all in his favour.

From what I have now submitted to your Excellency, I am more than amply convinced of the good grounds of my report of the 31st November last, but Mr. Baring's experience at Philippopoli and mine at Boyadjikkeui last year, apart my knowledge of Turkey alone, compels me to admit that if the case is inquired into by the civil authorities here, or I will add by almost any Turkish authority whatever, that the Military Tribunal will flatly deny that it has committed any injustice on the case in question; that it will be fully borne out by the investigators, and that from the feeling of terror that has reigned here since the breaking out of the present war, it would be absurd in me to attempt to bring any Ottoman subject to face any of them except in their favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 163.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 278.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 26, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship informed me by telegraph that Lord Augustus Loftus states that a semi-official article of the "Agence Russe" denies, as utterly unfounded, the report that Russia had demanded the expulsion of the Mussulman population from Bulgaria. This is one of the many audacious statements that the Russian Government is in the habit of making when it wishes to deceive Europe or to retreat from a false position. The demand for the removal of the Mahommedans from the new Principality was made at the first Conference between Safvet Pasha and the Russian Plenipotentiaries. Of this fact there is documentary evidence. The demand was resisted by Safvet Pasha, and does not appear amongst the last conditions of peace to which the assent of the Porte was required, a copy of which I transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 263, of the 22nd instant. I have questioned the Prime Minister and other Ministers on the subject. From what they tell me, the demand of Russia has been modified to the extent that the Mussulmans who have remained in the provinces occupied by the Russians are to be allowed to reside in certain places, but that those who fled in consequence of the outrages of the Bulgarians and Cossacks are not to be allowed to return.

The dreadful massacres of the Mahommedans that have taken place, and are still

taking place, and the general exodus of the Turkish population, have greatly reduced their numbers. No one acquainted with Bulgarian fanaticism, and with what occurred in Servia, will entertain a doubt that the few Mussulmans who may be permitted to reside for the present in Bulgaria will be speedily driven out of the Principality. I see no reason to modify my opinion that it has been the policy of Russia all along to have only Bulgarians in Bulgaria, and to exclude from it Mussulmans, Greeks, and all others who might interfere with the design to render the new State a mere Russian dependency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 164.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 279. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 26, 1878.*

M. ONOU, the head Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, has been constantly going backwards and forwards between the Russian head-quarters and the Porte. He has been charged, there is every reason to believe, with secret and delicate negotiations, which General Ignatiew hesitated to enter into with so upright and patriotic a statesman as Safvet Pasha, and which are better carried on by those tortuous underground courses at which this eminent diplomatist is so complete an adept. One of the objects of M. Onou's visits is, I am assured, the conclusion of a secret Treaty of Alliance between Russia and Turkey. I have already informed your Lordship that at the first meeting of the Turkish Plenipotentiaries with the Grand Duke Nicholas, his Imperial Highness suggested a Treaty of this nature, but no serious proposal appears to have been made to the Porte on the subject until after the signature of the Bases of Peace and of the Armistice, which placed Turkey so completely at the mercy of Russia that she now finds herself compelled to submit to any sacrifice that Russia may think fit to impose upon her. How far M. Onou may have succeeded in his negotiations for this secret Treaty, I am unable to say. According to some persons it has already been signed. According to others, the delay in concluding the Treaty of Peace is purposely caused by Count Ignatiew in order to force the Porte to accept the secret Treaty before all excuse for resuming military operations be removed. Although, according to the statement of the Prime Minister to me, the instructions to sign the Preliminaries of Peace were sent to Safvet Pasha whilst he was still at Adrianople, either means were found to prevent him from receiving them in time to do so before the Grand Duke advanced to San Stefano, or fresh difficulties were raised by the Russian Plenipotentiaries. All the telegraphic lines, except, perhaps, that of Fao-Bombay, are now in the hands of the Russians, and there is no doubt that messages passing through them are delayed or withheld, as suits their designs and interests. Now that the Russians have gained their object, and are virtually in possession of Constantinople, they can bring the utmost pressure to bear upon the Porte, and can exact their own conditions from them. They have made all their military preparations with great skill. They have, by the armistice, opened their communications by sea with the southern coast of Russia. They can, if they think fit, close the Bosphorus and Dardanelles against Her Majesty's ships now in the Sea of Marmora. They have already in their possession, in Europe and in Asia, all the territory that they for the present require. They can enter and occupy the capital at any moment. With such incalculable advantages in their favour, they know that protests and remonstrances from England or any other Power which will not go further than words, can no longer interfere with their ultimate designs, and that a Conference or a Congress can only be assembled to accept and sanction whatever terms they may think fit or prudent to impose upon Turkey and upon Europe.

The Turks are resigning themselves to this state of things. They see that they have nothing more to hope from Europe, and, with the exception of a few men who have the honour, dignity, and independence of their country at heart, they are ready to bend their necks to anything that Russia may place upon them. If, therefore, a secret Treaty, defensive and offensive, directed against England and Austria, and containing stipulations dangerous to British interests, is ultimately signed, it can scarcely be a matter for surprise or complaint on our part.

I have heard from several sources that the language held by M. Onou to the most influential Turks is to the effect that Turkey can no longer be regarded as an European

Power; that the whole of her possessions in Europe have been virtually taken away from her, and that she cannot consequently retain Constantinople beyond a short period. Such being the case, Turkey ought to become an Asiatic Power. The Sultan should move his capital to Koniah, or even Bagdad. Russia has no wish to acquire territory in Asia Minor or Mesopotamia. She would, therefore, assist the Sultan in establishing a powerful Kingdom in Asia, and would even be willing to aid him in extending his dominions eastward. Turkey might then become a large, powerful, and independent State, and, closely allied with Russia, might ultimately divide the Asiatic Continent with her. Russia and Turkey would then revenge themselves on England, whose Indian Possessions would be at their mercy.

Such language may appear somewhat wild to those who only look to the present, and refuse to consider the future; but it is not without its effect at a time when the Turks have thrown up everything in despair, and find themselves under the heel of an inexorable enemy, who has duped Europe, and from whom no one can, or will, save them. It gives them a gleam of hope for the future. It gratifies that feeling of exasperation which a large majority of them now entertain against England. The idea is not altogether incapable of realization. The Sultan might still collect together the scattered Mahomedan populations of his Empire. Aided by Russia he might form a compact and powerful Mussulman Kingdom in Asia, in which there would be no Bulgarian Christians who could be made the instruments of Russian ambition. Russia could have no objection to the Turks treating as they deemed expedient the few helpless Christian and other sects that exist in Asia Minor and in Assyria, and whom neither the sympathy nor interference of England, nor of any European Power, would profit. Turkey and Russia together would soon put an end to what little remains of the independence of Persia. The new doctrines of the "rectification of frontiers," and of "affinities of races," to justify aggression or conquest, could conveniently be applied to the rich provinces of Persia to the east of the Tigris, the Shat-el-Arab, and the Persian Gulf necessary to the development of Turkish power in the valley of the Euphrates, required by Turkey to give her the entire command of the mouths of the Euphrates, and inhabited by Arabs who, in consequence of their origin and creed, can only belong to her. How perilous an understanding between Russia and Turkey, which may bring about these results, would be to the British rule in India, it is unnecessary, it might be thought, to point out.

The language held by Prince Reuss is calculated to promote very materially the views of Russia with regard to an understanding with Turkey such as I have described. One of the Ministers, who has great influence in the Cabinet, told me yesterday that the Prince had said to him that Turkey had only now one course to pursue—to choose between an alliance with Russia, or to maintain other alliances; and, added his Highness, by this time the Porte has learnt how far it can count upon England, or any other European Power.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 165.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 284.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 256 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a report from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, respecting the massacre committed by Circassians and others at Roum Yenikeui.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, February 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, that in accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I to-day proceeded to the village of Roum-Yenikeui (in Greek, Hachtechorion)

in company with Commander Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," for the purpose of ascertaining the circumstances attending the massacre committed at that village, on the 16th January last, by Circassians and Albanians.

The result of our inquiries was the following connected narrative of this slaughter —a narrative which, I venture to think, is as near the actual truth as can be possibly ascertained.

On Sunday, the 13th January, the town of Aidos (eight miles' distant) was burnt by order of the Turkish authorities and evacuated, and many Christian peasants of the village of Cadikeui (three or four miles' distant, and which had been plundered and burnt that morning by Circassians and Albanians), fled for safety to Roum-Yenikeui, whose inhabitants, fearing an attack by Bashi-Bazouks, resolved to take refuge, with their families and a store of provisions, within the stone-built church and the churchyard, the latter of which is an enclosure of about an acre in extent, surrounded by stone walls 6 feet high. On this day no attack was made, although small parties of Circassians were constantly riding through the village, and plundering the houses on the outskirts.

Towards the evening of this day (Sunday) Nourri Agha, a Mussulman Albanian of the district of Sala (and whose history, as far as I know it, I shall have to relate presently) rode alone into Roum-Yenikeui, where he was well known, minutely inspected the church and churchyard, told the villagers that they had "chosen an excellent position for defence," advised them, if they saw any Circassians, to "shoot them down like dogs," and promised to return next morning with thirty-two Albanians, upon whom he could rely, and escort all the villagers in safety to the towns of Bourgas or Achialo. Being invited to stop there that night, he declined, on the pretence that it was necessary for him to go and collect his Albanians.

On Monday morning, the 14th January, he returned to Roum-Yenikeui, with about 70 Albanians, and immediately summoned the villagers to give up what arms they had, and to pay a ransom of 3,000 Turkish liras, or 2,700*l.* sterling. They refused to do either the one or the other, unless the English Consul (myself) or M. Bonnat, a French merchant residing in Bourgas, came to the village and advised them to accept these terms.

This answer being received, the Albanians, who were constantly being reinforced by Circassians, stationed themselves upon the roof of a house about 250 yards south of the church, and on a hill 400 yards to the north of it, and commenced a cross-fire upon the peasants, who returned it to the best of their ability; but as the Circassians and Albanians were all armed with Winchester, Martini-Peabody, or Remington rifles, and the Greeks had only old flint-locks and common smooth-bore guns, several of the latter were killed or wounded, whilst the assailants, as far as my informants could tell, suffered no loss.

The villagers say that on this day they sent two messengers to me asking for aid, but I heard nothing of them till after the massacre, and even had I received their appeal, I fear I could have done nothing to help them.

During the 14th, 15th, and 16th January, shots were constantly interchanged, and on the evening of the 16th, Wednesday, the Circassians and Albanians, to the number of about 150, having previously set fire to the school adjoining the church, jumped over the walls, broke open the gates of the churchyard, and fired volley upon volley into the crowded mass of men, women, and children. The Greeks escaped as best they could over the walls or through the breaches previously made by the attacking party, and ran for their lives to the hills on the north of the village, the brigands firing upon every fugitive they saw.

Within the church and churchyard, and in the immediate vicinity, 86 persons were killed; and in or around the village, 40 more; in all, 126, of whom 7 or 8 belonged to the village of Cadikeui.

Amongst the killed were 7 women:—

1. The wife of Niccolû.
2. The wife of Photis.
3. The wife of Atanaz.
4. The wife of Stali.
5. The wife of Michal.
6. The daughter of Sava.
7. The daughter-in-law of Petro.

The wife of the priest Dimitri was tortured by Circassians, who pricked her with their daggers, and burned her with petroleum in various places; she died of her wounds at Achialo. Her husband, the priest Dimitri, was also tortured in the same

manner, in order to extort money, and is now under the doctor's hands at Achialo. Their son, Theodoraki, we saw at Roum Yeni-keui; he had received four bullet wounds and seven stabs or cuts, but will probably recover. Five men are said to have died from the effects of torture, chiefly inflicted by burning with petroleum.

Twenty-four wounded, of whom three are women, are now at Achialo.

Of the women all (with the exception of the priest's wife) were killed or wounded by rifle or revolver balls. The villagers expressly assured me that none of the wretches who stormed their village seemed to wish to kill the women, and that all those who died were killed in the attack upon the churchyard. I asked the people of Roum Yeni-keui how it happened that there was such a disproportion between the numbers of men and women killed, and the answer I received was, "Perhaps they had pity on the women; any how, they did not spare us."

I cannot find that any infants or young children were wantonly murdered by either Circassians or Albanians; but I believe that either two or three were killed by gun-shot wounds when the churchyard was carried, others were thrown away by their mothers in the church and trampled under foot, whilst others, again, were abandoned in or around the village by the women who escaped to the hills, and were fired upon whilst running away. One of the villagers told us that he had collected on the hill-side, the day after the attack, five babies abandoned by their mothers; he brought them all into Roum Yeni-keui, but none of them survived more than three days.

As soon as the churchyard was taken by the Circassians and Albanians, they seized all the women and girls (old and young) whom they found, including two children under ten years of age, and outraged them within the church. The details I heard are too horrible for me to commit to paper; and it must be recollected that the Rayahs of Roumelia are very tender of the honour of their women, and if secrecy were at all possible in a case of this kind, would be more inclined to silence than to exaggeration.

After the capture of the churchyard about thirty Turks from the Aidos Balkan came into the village and looted; "but," said the villagers, "they only killed one man."

Amongst the 150 assailants there were no Turks.

About three-quarters of the village, or 120 houses, including the richest and best built portion, with its shops, inns, &c., is burnt; in fact, Roum Yeni-keui, which six weeks ago was one of the richest villages in the sub-province of Slimnia, is now reduced to almost beggary.

What I know of Nourri-Agha, the leader of the murderers, is as follows:—He is about 44 years old, but looks much younger. He was sent last year (having then the rank and uniform of a captain in the Turkish army) by the Porte to drill and exercise the gardes champêtres of M. Zafiropholo, who owns large estates in this district. According to his own account of himself, he appears to have served in the Ottoman army during the Montenegrin war of 1862, was then taken prisoner, joined the Montenegrins, and served a campaign with them against the Turks. He has shown to me and to Captain Drummond, R.E., late of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," two medals for the campaigns in question—one given to him by the Turks, and the other by the Montenegrins.

About October or November of last year he was recalled to Constantinople and shortly afterwards returned with a mission (or at least he said so) to report upon certain fortifications or entrenchments thrown up by the inhabitants of the towns of Vassilikos and Sizopoli (on the sea-coast) by permission from the Mutessarif of Slimnia, in order to protect themselves against Circassian brigands; but although supposed to be employed on this special mission, he never presented any credentials to the then Kaïmakam of Bourgas, Ahmet Bey of Tirnova, and was never recognized by him in any capacity.

After he left M. Zafiropoulos' estate, it was found that under various pretences he had extorted large sums of money from the Christian peasants, threatening them with death if they complained of him.

As I have heard that the late Kaïmakam of Bourgas, Ahmet Bey, is (or was) in prison on a charge of negligence, or complicity in the affair of the massacre at Roum Yenikeui, it becomes my duty to state to your Excellency that I am perfectly certain of his complete innocence: in the Turkish Parliament he has been represented as employing Nourri Agha as a sort of Lieutenant for the interior of this district, and, again, as having, when called upon, refused or omitted to send help to the village of Roum Yenikeui. With regard to the first allegation, I believe it—indeed I know it—to be perfectly erroneous; and in answer to the second, it may be sufficient to say

that he had not then a single soldier, policeman, or armed force of any kind that he could send outside the limits of the town of Bourgas.

In justice to Ahmet Bey I must also declare my conviction that he did his duty here as became a man in his responsible and very difficult position until the Russians were reported, by cavalry sent out to ascertain their position, as marching upon Bourgas. Had he, as did the Kaïmakams of Kamalad and Aidos, abandoned his post at the first alarm, it is my opinion, and that of everyone else who was then in this town, that Bourgas would have been burnt and a massacre would have taken place, as there were thousands of defenceless Rayahs assembled on the sea-shore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

No. 166.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 285.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Reade reporting that the Russians have advanced beyond the line laid down by the armistice.

I also inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Stokes respecting the state of affairs at Sulina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 166.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, February* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that for several days after the notification by their Generals at Bazardjik, Rasgrad, Djuma, and Osman-Bazar to the Turkish Commanders here and at Shumla, the Russians continued pushing on in the direction of Shumla, and when the official notification of the armistice giving all the conditions and lines reached the Turkish authorities here and at Shumla, this was officially communicated to all the Russian Generals above indicated. The Bazardjik, Djuma, and Osman-Bazar detachments were all at once withdrawn within their line, but the General at Rasgrad, whose name I have not been able to ascertain correctly, but which is something like Prince Dougenchoff Gorlchakoff, not only absolutely refused to withdraw his troops who had advanced as far as Derekoi, a village on the Rasgrad-Shumla chaussée, and only seven miles from the latter place, but even replied with much insolence to the protest forwarded to him by the Turkish General at Shumla.

Edib Effendi, the Vice-Governor-General, who arrived here from Shumla two days ago on his way to Constantinople, informed me of this, and drew me the inclosed rough sketch, which I inclose in original, marking in red the part still occupied by the Russians of the Rasgrad division; and he also stated to me that the Mussulmans of this quarter have been ill-treated, and had all their carts and cattle taken from them by the Russians.

Edib Effendi also informed me that some Mussulmans of Rasgrad have received very bad treatment from the Russians.

The Turkish authorities at Shumla are somewhat alarmed, as from the proximity of the Russians (at Derekoi) their supplies might be entirely cut off at any moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sulina, February 14, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 11th instant all the Turkish ships of war stationed at this port, having previously embarked all their material of war, and having also taken on board the military and civil authorities, abandoned the place; and on the 13th instant the Russian Brigadier-General Salatzky, with 500 infantry and 30 Cossacks, crossed the river, and quietly took possession of the town. I now inclose a copy of the letter addressed to the Turkish Admiral by the Russian General on the 3rd instant, and the Admiral's reply to the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) O. STOKES.

P.S.—The Russians were fully prepared to attack Sulina a second time, and had the signing of the armistice been delayed for half-an-hour, would have done so with a force of 5,000 men and heavy guns, and on this occasion we could not have escaped, as we were surrounded on all sides.

O. S.

Inclosure 3 in No. 166.

Brigadier-General Salatzky to the Turkish Admiral at Sulina.

Le $\frac{22 \text{ Janvier}}{3 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

Votre Excellence,

JE viens de recevoir l'ordre de faire savoir à votre Excellence que l'armistice entre l'armée Impériale Russe et l'armée Turque ayant été conclu et signé le 19 Janvier les hostilités doivent cesser immédiatement.

D'après les conditions, le blocus des ports Russes par la flotte Turque est levé, le commerce devient libre, le port et la ville de Soulina sera évacuée, ainsi que Rustchuk, Silistria, et Widdin.

De notre côté on rendra le Danube propre à la navigation en otant les torpilles.

Les troupes Russes occuperont les bords de la Mer Noire depuis la frontière Russe jusqu'à Baltchik inclusivement, et ensuite depuis Mesouria jusqu'à Derkos exclusivement, mais les troupes Impériales Russes n'occuperont que les ports de Burgas et Midia. Le mouvement sur les chemins de fer de la Turquie est libre pour le commerce, et les ports sont ouverts pour toutes les espèces de marchandises à l'exception des munitions de guerre.

Les deux Gouvernements prendront des dispositions pour que la communication télégraphique entre les villes de Constantinople et Odessa soit ouverte prochainement. En vous annonçant la nouvelle j'ai l'honneur de prier à votre Excellence de me faire connaître vos intentions et dispositions quant à la ville de Soulina.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) V. SALATZKY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 166.

The Turkish Admiral at Sulina to Brigadier-General Salatzky.

Le 3 Février, 1878.

M. le Général,

EN vous confirmant ma lettre responsive à la vôtre en date d'hier, par rapport aux clauses de l'Armistice conclué et signé entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance qu'à l'instant même je viens de recevoir des instructions de mon Gouvernement pour l'évacuation de Soulina et ses terrains par la flotte et les établissements de guerre, instructions auxquelles je me conformerais immédiatement. En vous faisant part de ce que précède je vous prie, &c.

L'Amiral Commandant la Flotte Ottomane de la Mer Noire.

Inclosure 5 in No. 166.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sulina, February 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that the River Danube is now free of ice, but the navigation is still interdicted by the Russian authorities, in consequence of their not having yet removed the torpedoes, which they had previously laid down.

Yesterday the Russians hoisted their national standard in front of the buildings of the European Commission of the Danube.

The Turkish iron-clad "Muric Safire" arrived here yesterday, and is anchored outside in the roads.

I have, &c.

(Signed) O. STOKES.

No. 167.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 286.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, respecting an engagement between the Turkish troops and the Greek insurgents, and also copy of a despatch from Acting-Consul Barker respecting some outrages said to have been committed at Pristina.

I have not yet received Mr. Barker's despatch of the 24th instant to which he refers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 167.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Prevesa, February 16, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that an engagement, which lasted for several hours, took place on the 14th instant at Dimario, a village of Radovizi, between the Turkish troops and a band of insurgents, under the command of Sealzogianis. The insurgents appear to have entered Turkish territory from Greece. According to a telegram which I hear was received by the Montessarif a few minutes since, it would seem that the insurgents were utterly routed, with a loss of two wounded on their side, but I have some doubts as to whether this result has in reality been attained, for I have just been informed that seven Turkish wounded soldiers were brought into Arta.

Another band of insurgents, it is rumoured, is on its way to Plaka, the key to the communication between Janina and Arta, but this I expect is only a rumour, for supposing even that this band really exists, it must have failed to capture that position, for two battalions from Janina entered Arta yesterday.

I very much fear that the appearance of these insurgents will be followed by disturbances in other parts of Epirus, I should therefore venture to express a hope that a gun-boat will be stationed on this coast for the protection of life.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 167.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, February 25, 1878.

Sir,

SINCE my despatch of yesterday's date was written, I have learnt that the information which was communicated to me by a person who had just arrived from Pristina is not accurate on all points.

The outbreak was occasioned by some irregulars who attempted to lodge in a Bulgarian house by force, and finding opposition, killed the man and his wife, and afterwards went about murdering the Christians they met in the streets. Three houses were burnt and eighteen persons murdered.

Whether the Mussulmans of the town were connected with the outbreak or not, will appear when the Commission named by the Vali will have made its report.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Report I have received from Volo of the events occurring there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 167.

M. Borrell to Acting Consul Barker.

Volo, le 21 Février, 1878.

Monsieur,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que dans la nuit du 17 du courant, quatre bataillons complètes, formant un total de 3,200 soldats, avec quatre pièces de montagne, sous le commandement de Skender Pacha, se dirigeaient vers le Mont Pelion, à gauche du village Macrinitza; deux autres bataillons étaient partis de Velastino (ancienne Phera) pour faire leur jonction avec ceux partis de Volo.

Cette partie du Mont Pelion, connue sous le nom de "Sarakino," par où devait franchir cette armée, est la moins escarpée, mais aride et pleine de rochers. Aux pieds de Sarakino un autre corps de soldats, avec deux pièces de montagne et la cavalerie, formaient un cordon pour empêcher les insurgés de fuir de ce côté.

Les insurgés ne s'attendaient pas à être attaqués ce jour là, et divers chefs, avec l'élite de leur petite troupe, s'étaient dirigés du côté d'Ayah pour enlever divers dépôts de blé appartenant au Gouvernement Turc. Il ne restait donc au village de Macrinitza, que 500 combattants environ, dont la plupart des villageois du district de Volo, qui n'avaient jamais vu le feu, et qui devait faire front aux forces Turques, dix fois supérieures à la leur et encore de ces 500, les Chefs ont dû retirer 150 pour garder un passage par où ils pouvaient être pris par derrière.

L'attaque commença le 18; à l'aube la fusillade était vive et bien nourrie de part et d'autre; les insurgés avaient occupé une position assez forte derrière les rochers; leur feu faisait des brèches dans les rangs ennemis, qui furent tenus en échec pendant plusieurs heures, malgré leur artillerie, qui ne faisait du mal qu'aux rochers. Vers midi nous voyions plusieurs colonnes Turques s'étendre et prendre la fuite. Les insurgés les poursuivaient à l'arme blanche. Le stationaire Turc "Rethymo" ouvre alors ses batteries et fait feu, ainsi que la forteresse de la ville, contre les insurgés pour les arrêter de poursuivre les fuyards. C'est à ce moment qu'il y eu un peu de panique dans la ville, car on a craint que les Turcs battus se vengeraient sur les habitants de Volo.

Un corps de réserve Turc fit tout à coup son apparition, les fuyards s'arrêtèrent, se relient, et marchent de nouveau sur les insurgés, qui réculent lentement. Vers les cinq heures du soir, nous voyions les soldats occuper les hauteurs du Mont Sarakino et le feu cessa après un combat de onze heures.

Dans cet engagément, il y a eu des prodiges de valeur; même les femmes accouraient pour porter aux insurgés des cartouches et emporter les blessés.

Les Turcs bivouaquèrent sur les positions conquises; les insurgés se retirent sur les hauteurs au-dessus de Macrinitza. Le soir même, après l'engagement, les divers corps d'insurgés qui étaient allés du côté d'Ayah à la recherche de provisions arrivaient de tous côtés regrettant de ne s'être pas trouvés au combat.

Le lendemain nous nous attendions de voir la reprise des hostilités, mais au lieu de cela, Skender Pacha expédia au camp des insurgés deux négociants indigènes, pour leur dire, que s'ils entraient dans Macrinitza, il bombarderait ce village; ils répondirent qu'eux n'entreraient pas, pourvu que les troupes Turques n'y entrassent pas non plus.

Les primats de Macrinitza et du village voisin Podaria furent sommés de se rendre à son camp et faire leur soumission; ils s'empressèrent d'obéir à cet ordre, dans le seul but de préserver leurs villages de la destruction.

Skender Pacha retourna tout triomphant à Volo, emmenant avec lui les susdits primats pour qu'ils fussent aussi leur prétendue soumission au Général-en-chef

Regib Pacha, qui leur ordonna de retourner à leurs villages et de se garder de recevoir les insurgés.

Trois blessés et dix cadavres des insurgés furent transportés à Volo par les soldats Turcs. A la demande du Métropolitain son Excellence Regib Pacha lui remit les dix corps, qui furent transportés à l'Eglise Orthodoxe et enterrés avec pompe. Les pertes des Turcs sont évaluées à environ 100 hommes, en morts et blessés, parmi lesquels un Bimbashi, un Yuzbashi, et quatre Moullagins, celles des Chrétiens environ vingt-cinq morts et une trentaine de blessés.

Après le retour à Volo des troupes Turques les insurgés se sont retirés de tous les villages accessibles à être bombardés par mer.

Dans quelques villages situés entre les monts Pelion et Ossa on se bat depuis deux jours. Regib Pacha est parti ce soir de Volo avec toutes les troupes, mais on ne sait pas de quel côté il se dirige.

L'insurrection s'est étendue dans toute la Thessalie; on se bat de partout. A Platanos les Bachi-Bazouks ont massacré treize femmes et enfants. Les autorités militaires demandent de Constantinople de nouveaux renforts.

Deux cuirassés Turcs, "l'Azizie" et le "Libnan," venant de Durazzo, sont arrivés dans ce port.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) CHARLES W. BORRELL.

No. 168.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 267. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 27, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 271, I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum with regard to the alleged execution of Poles who have fallen into the hands of the Russians. I cannot, of course, answer for the trustworthiness of the evidence furnished to me on this subject. It is very desirable that it should not be published, as those who gave it might be exposed to great peril.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Memorandum by M. Edwin respecting the Execution of Poles.

M. WERNITCHKI, officier dans l'armée d'Ahmet Moukhtar Pacha, fusilé à Kars.

Témoin: Un déserteur, sous-officier de l'armée Russe, présentement volontaire du Corps des Cherkess de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

2. Murad Bey (Lanckorouski) ci-devant Commandant du Régiment des Dragons au service Turc, âgé de 70 ans, a été sabré par les Russes au moment où les troupes Turques rendaient les armes aux Russes à Tilitch.

Témoin: Chakir Effendi, pharmacien du Régiment des Cosaques, demeurant à Scutari de Constantinople.

3. Mizynoki, pendu à Andrinople.

Témoin: Moudiem Popiel, demeurant à Yalata.

4. Mihalski (Polonais, sujet Autrichien), médecin au service Turc, pendu à Sofia bientôt après l'entrée des Russes.

Témoins: Kibarynski et Kroslowski, Polonais demeurant à Constantinople.

5. Hleyan Simeon, Lieutenant du Régiment des Cosaques, fusilé à Plevna.

Témoin: Chakir Effendi, pharmacien du Régiment des Cosaques, demeurant à Scutari.

6. Ahmet Haddy (Provok), Adjutant-Major dans l'armée Turque, pendu à Sofia.

Témoin: Chakir Effendi et . . .

Vu la difficulté d'avoir des preuves ou des renseignements positifs il est difficile de constater la pendaison de M. Zachinski, médecin de la ville de Kyzanlik, ainsi que de M. Styxynski (prononcé Sfichinski), qui était également à Kyzanlik; mais le fait

est que tous les deux ont complètement disparu depuis que Kyżanlik est tombé au pouvoir des Russes.

Les premiers renseignements qui avaient été reçus sur le compte des trois Polonais à Andrinople, à savoir, MM. Sohodolski, Baranoski, et Grigloshefski, ingénieurs civiles au service Turc, sont, d'après les dernières informations, erronés. Par conséquent, ces messieurs existent toujours à Andrinople, à l'exception de M. Yablonoski, ex-Major du Régiment des Cosaques, lequel a été arrêté par les Russes et déporté en Russie, d'après le témoignage du Rev. Père Raphaël, de la Propagande Catholique Unie, actuellement à Constantinople.

No. 169.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 200.) *Constantinople, February* 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, which contains a shocking account of what has taken place in the district of Bourgas, which is well worthy of your Lordship's attention, as showing what has been the result of the war which has been stirred up between races in this country, and what may be expected hereafter in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, February 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a copy of a letter received by me from my brother, Mr. Alfred Brophy, who has lately returned from Aidos and Karnabad.

To the statistics given by him of Rayahs killed in this district, I am able to add the following:—

Tepeh Kishla	6	persons killed.	18 girls outraged.
Ak Yasli	8	"	
Alan-keui	3	"	
Caradjahar	16	"	
Aghadjlar	6	"	
Christina	2	"	
Tasstepé	2	"	
Courou-deré	10	"	
Karahounar	15	"	
Papasskeui	28	"	
Orounkeui	27	"	
Slimnia (town)	10	"	

And I fear that there is scarcely a Rayah village from Slimnia to the sea in which some of the inhabitants have not been murdered.

On the other hand my brother is quite correct in supposing that reprisals have taken place on the part of the Bulgarians. I have to-day spoken with a Bulgarian farm labourer who accompanied his Turkish employer in his flight for upwards of forty miles in the direction of Kirk-Kilissé, and who, whilst saying that the road was "sown" with the corpses of Christians, and that he himself saw both Turks and Circassians murdering, and inflicting the most horrible tortures upon men and women in order to make them give up their money, also told me that near the village of Takki a caravan of Turkish fugitives with twenty-eight carts was attacked by Bulgarians, who massacred men, women, and children, only four persons escaping. My informant saw the bodies of these people lying where they had been murdered.

About a fortnight since seventeen Bulgarians and Greeks, under the leadership of Vassili, son of Chrisso Hadji Theodoraki Oglou, of the town of , wantonly killed six defenceless Turks at the village of Yenji-keui, in the Caza of Missevria (amongst them the Hodja, an old man of eighty), and afterwards shot a Turk who was drawing water from a well just outside the town of Missevria.

On the 28th January the Bulgarians of the village of Ai Niccola killed at Kafka, a farm three or four miles from here, two Turkish cavalry soldiers who had remained there not knowing that the Turkish authorities and troops had abandoned Bourgas on the previous day.

By a Bulgarian of Slimnia I am told that after the fall of Plevna 7,000 Turkish prisoners were put under the escort of Bulgarians to take to Bucharest, and that they marched them three times to the banks of the Danube, and then back again, each time into the interior, saying, "by way of a joke, that they had lost their way."

The consequence was that from fatigue, exposure to the weather, and being murdered in detail by their escort, only 2,000 out of the 7,000 lived to arrive in Bucharest. My informant added that the the Roumanians treated their prisoners equally barbarously.

From the same source I learn that a Polish refugee, M. Stanislas Jablonoski, who, after the Polish insurrection of 1848 fled to Turkey, where he was at one time Major in the regiment of Turkish Cossacks of the Sultan's guard, and lately employed as a Superintendent of Ponts et Chaussées, was made prisoner by the Russians when they entered Slimnia on the 15th January. After being kept at that town for some time he was sent under a Russian escort towards Tirnova, but being too old and infirm to keep up with his escort on foot, he was killed and his body left on the road.

His photograph, amongst those of seven other pesons "wanted" by the Russian Government, was in the hands of the Colonel commanding at Elena, who himself narrated the circumstances of M. Jablonoski's murder to my Bulgarian informant. I have spoken of this affair to Russian officers here, who admit that it was "un triste accident," and even add that their Government might have shown leniency even to a Polish refugee who had been thirty years in exile.

The Bulgarians having been thoroughly plundered by the retreating Mussulmans, are now devoting their energies to recoup themselves by seizing upon anything the Turks may have left behind them, such as sheep, grain, &c. Not content, however, with appropriating such derelicts, they appear to consider that none but Bulgarians have the right to possess property in the Bulgaria of the future, and consequently amuse themselves by looting or burning the goods belonging to Greeks or other non-Bulgarians, although the owners still remain on their property. Of this propensity I can give the following instances:—

1. At Tayah (Caza of Bourgas) the large farm belonging to M. Zarifó was completely plundered by the villagers, who carried off large quantities of grain, cloth, &c., cut up the driving-gear of the steam flour-mill, entirely destroyed the fulling machine, and stripped the farm-buildings of everything portable.

2. At Rousso-kesser (Caza of Bourgas) the villagers carried off sheep and grain from a farm belonging to Niko Chorbadji, a Greek Rayah.

3. At Sowatlar (Caza of Bourgas) the house and farm-buildings belonging to M. Kokkinos, a Hellenic subject, were burnt by the villagers, and his cattle and grain plundered.

4. At Atanazkeui (close to Bourgas) the farm belonging to Karabet Agha, an Armenian, was partially plundered by the Bulgarian villagers, who also told the Russian soldiery that it was Turkish property; so that the latter daily take thence their supplies of grain, hay, cattle, &c., without payment and without giving any receipt.

5. The Bulgarians of the village of Ai Niccola (Caza of Bourgas) openly sell to boats coming from Achialo or elsewhere the stores of firewood belonging to the Greek Monastery of St. Anastasia, situated on an island in the Bay of Bourgas, and which has estates on the mainland opposite.

A band of about 100 Bulgarians from the neighbourhood of Slimnia, under a certain Voivoda Panayot, for many years a noted brigand in the districts between Elena and Tirnovo, and afterwards a refugee in Wallachia, but lately serving with the Russians as guide, is now plundering between here and Slimnia, and robbing even from the smaller Bulgarian villages.

Colonel Lermontoff, the officer in command here, has written to head-quarters to complain of this man's conduct. I believe that Colonel Lermontoff is doing his best to introduce order, but the task will be a long and difficult one.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 160.

Mr. A. Brophy to Vice-Consul Brophy.

Bourgas, February 15, 1878.

Sir,

AS you have not received my private letters of the 6th and 7th of this month, I herewith beg to send you a summary of their contents.

As I surmised in my letter to you of the 27th January, the day of the precipitate flight of the civil authorities and the marines from this place, the Russians were then by no means so close at hand as report made them out; at that time there were no more than a score of their cavalry at Karnabad, 30 miles away, and it was not till ten days later, on the 6th February, that about 600 of their infantry, with 2 cannons, and about 200 dragoons, made their entry into the town.

In the interim the Christian inhabitants of Bourgas, many of whom had returned from the ships in the bay where they had taken refuge, begged M. Glücklich, the Austrian Vice-Consular Agent here, to seal the Government granaries, containing about 70,000 Constantinople kilés of wheat, besides other grain (which had been left open by the Turkish authorities in their hurry to get away), in order to prevent its being stolen.

Unfortunately, however, M. Glücklich's efforts were not properly seconded by the inhabitants, who were disunited and more anxious to profit by the occasion presented for looting than to combine for the common good (and in this those whose position ought to have led them to act more worthily showed them no better example); the consequence being that several private granaries were broken open and their contents stolen, cattle and sheep shut up or driven off by people having no claim to them, and household property, especially in the Turkish quarter, carried away, or often wantonly destroyed. During this time, throughout the whole country, the Bulgarians kept openly robbing cattle and grain and anything else that might have been worth the stealing, and this not only the property of the Turks and Circassians who had fled, but, without making nice distinctions, also from their Christian neighbours who were absent or whose goods were insufficiently guarded.

For a day after the arrival of the Russian troops here, their cavalry soldiers, in all instances guided by Bulgarians, committed many thefts both of grain and of property belonging to the inhabitants; for example, I may state that some of them entered the house where we live and stole some articles of clothing belonging to the man in charge, besides one or two things of ours having no intrinsic value, all such having been previously cleared away by other marauders. The next day after their entry, the Russian military authorities invited the inhabitants to choose a sort of provisional Council, consisting of six members and a president; three Greek and three Bulgarian members were chosen, and after some dispute the president elected was a Bulgarian Ivanczo Effendi Hadji Petrof, formerly Mushtesbar of Roustchouk, but unluckily, partly owing to the two elements of different nationalities clashing, but a good deal more owing to their administrative incapacity, affairs have not progressed as well as might be desired, and though the same impediment of antagonistic races is not working at Karnabad, it seems to me, from the short stay I made there, that matters are not on a much better footing in that district.

The other day, after having long in vain tried to procure a horse, I went to Ahiolo, and after some difficulty succeeded in hiring a horse; thence I proceeded to Roum Yenikeui, Aidos, Pirna, Tass Tépé, Djeoirli, and Karnabat, and back by Biyukli, Christina, and Calali.

I have had to mention the provisional Councils of Bourgas and Karnabad in terms of blame, as being incapable of properly fulfilling their functions, owing to want of initiation and energy (some people backing their assertions by examples, going as far as to accuse the President of the Council of the former town of recurring to unscrupulous means to recoup himself of losses sustained in cattle and sheep carried off previously), but in justice I must add that from all I could see and hear during my short and naturally insufficient stay in the town of Aidos, one that has suffered very severely in the late disorder, the administration of affairs, under an administrative Council, of which Constantin Slimliali was the President, and evidently the guiding spirit, was carried out in a highly creditable manner; thus, when I passed, although this *pro tem.* administration had been in force three days only, stolen cattle were being brought down from the Balkans, and after having been identified, and proper security taken to avoid fraud, were handed over to their owners; and household goods and chattels were being stored up, in a place set apart for the purpose, until the population

should have all returned, and the proper owners ascertained. In addition to this, whereas it seems in most of the other cazas, such as Ahiolo, Misevria, and Karnabad, that a disposition exists amongst the Christians to make out, with or without reason, all the Turkish peasants who have remained in their mountain villages—their egress having been barred by the Russian advance—as being unwilling to give in their submission, or committing outrages, thereby hounding the Russian troops on to them, and driving them to despair, the local authority of Aidos have induced not only those Turkish villages to stop which had not attempted to flee, but also succeeded in persuading those Mussulman villagers who had already quitted their homes to return to them; and this not by means of false promises, but by telling them they must bring in their arms as a sign of submission; that the then Government in the Council's hands was merely a temporary one, and would be succeeded by a definite authority, which would punish all those amongst them (the Turks) who had been guilty of murder or other crimes; that, to avoid future evil consequences, they must immediately restore any property stolen from Christians, but that in the meantime it was not the provisional Government's province to judge anybody, but to protect every peace-abiding inhabitant of the caza, which it would do to the utmost of its power.

On matters being represented to them in this light, the Turkish peasants cheerfully acquiesced to what was required of them, and are daily visiting Aidos, bringing in arms, provisions, &c., a thing not witnessed by me here at Ahiolo, nor at Karnabad.

The number of Christians killed lately has been considerable, and there is hardly I believe a village in this Sandjak or province of Slimnia, which has not had some of its inhabitants murdered and houses burnt; from some short and very incomplete notes I have, I will give you an idea of what has occurred.

Bourgas Caza.—Bourgas town, 3 Bulgarians killed; Prodivo, 32 men killed, 3 women killed, and 2 girls carried off; Vaya-Keui, 3 men killed, 4 houses burnt; Caiali, 10 houses burnt, 7 men killed; Biyükli, 4 houses burnt, 3 men killed; Roum Yenikeui, 120 persons killed, among which 7 women and one or two children.

Aidos Caza.—Aidos town, about 50 killed, trading quarter and greater portion of the Christian dwelling-houses all burnt, besides the Government offices, and five or six Turkish houses; Pervia, about 25 killed; Koutchiali, some houses burnt, and about 25 persons killed; Azapli, about 30 persons killed and a few houses burnt.

Karnabad Caza.—Karnabad town, the trading quarter and many Christian houses burnt, about 150 people said to be killed; Iejevirli, 4 men killed, 9 out of 16 houses burnt; Kommarevo, 20 persons reported killed.

In giving the above, it must be added that just now it is perfectly impossible to come at a correct statement of the actual loss of life, as a great number of people were killed outside their villages, and a large number of women and children perished from cold, besides that up to the present moment, perhaps not half of the fugitives have returned to their houses, they having fled to Constantinople or neighbouring villages.

After making this remark, it would seem illogical to offer any probable estimate of the persons killed, and therefore I do so for three cazas only, and giving large limits, thus:

Bourgas Caza, 300 or 350 killed.

Aidos and Karnabad Cazas, 250 or 300 killed each.

Ahiolo and Misevria Cazas are smaller, and up to the present have not suffered in proportion.

The authors of these massacres were mostly Circassians and Albanians, joined by a Turkish contingent of the worst character, and a fact to be by no means overlooked is the small number of women and children killed, the perpetrators of the murders having killed or threatened to kill principally the heads of families, and therefore these crimes, horrible as they are, were mostly committed by ruffians fired by a lust of money or plunder.

A large proportion of the Mussulman population escaped by sea, but a considerable part of them went also by land, and there is no doubt that their track to Constantinople was marked by outrages of every description, and that the region of Khass-Keui has especially suffered; still, from all I can hear, and naturally all from Bulgarian sources, no Mussulmans having remained in these parts, it would appear that terrible reprisals have taken place, above all in the Faki Balkan district to the south of this town, and on the road to Kirk Klissia and Tirnova. As an instance I was told on pretty good authority, that the Bulgarians of Kourron-Dere, in the Caza of Karnabad, joined

by many other Bulgarians, fully armed, had followed and come up with a Turkish caravan that was returning, and had slaughtered the Turks, young and old, men and women, and that the peasants of Kourrou-Dere had brought back 24 cartloads of plunder.

The action of the Russian military authorities does not seem of a nature to prevent such reprisals on the part of the Bulgarians, for they (the Bulgarians) are provided on demand, or on the payment of a nominal price, with the breech-loaders captured from the Turks; and now, at any rate, these weapons can only be used by them for offence, and not defence.

In the Balkan, to the north, and this side of the River Kamtchik, there would appear to be many fugitives, composed of families and other district bands of Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians; what will be the fate of the one and the other remains to be seen.

A feature to be noticed is that, although in the villages a large number of dwelling-houses have been burnt, the barns and out-houses, owing to their generally being built apart, have escaped destruction, and that thus a large quantity of grain is available for the invading army.

In a very great number of Turkish villages Bulgarians have settled, and by no means only those who have been burnt out of their previous homes, but also by others, who seem to imagine that the Turks will not return again, and that by establishing a squatter claim of precedence they will have a right to the previous owner's house, fields, grain, &c., &c.

From conversations I have had, it would appear that the Russians consider the Eastern question as settled by the Mussulman population having, as a rule, abandoned *en masse* European Turkey; and that having thus abandoned their possessions, they should not be allowed to return to them. That the lands, &c., thus left vacant should revert to the benefit of the Government to be hereafter established here; and that immigration, especially of Slavic colonists, such as the Czechs of Bohemia, would be encouraged by cessions of land at a cheap rate, with immunity for a certain period from military service, and perhaps, in the case of previously uncultivated ground, from taxes.

Of course it is needless to add that the indispensible condition of being obliged to renounce one's former nationality and become a subject of the established Government, and the obligation of serving in the army, would hinder the subjects of most nations from becoming colonists in this country.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 170.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 202.)
Constantinople, February 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, in original, a despatch just received from Mr. Longworth respecting the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 170.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Larissa, February 21, 1878.

Sir,

IN the evening of the 16th instant I received from your Excellency the following telegram:—

"Inform me at once of condition of Thessaly. Is there an insurrection and general panic of Christians, and are outrages being committed upon them?"

On its receipt I immediately telegraphed as follows:—

"Just arrived; only informed yesterday of telegraphic orders to await instructions at Larissa.

"Troops now in Thessaly sufficient to prevent the insurrection becoming serious.

Greek troops have withdrawn from Thessaly. Among Christians revolution is still spreading; among Turks the panic still prevails.

"Pillage and violence very general by irregulars on Christians and Mahometans. Report by post."

In now endeavouring to give a brief sketch of the present condition of Thessaly, I beg to draw your Excellency's attention to my despatch of the 4th instant, and my telegrams in Turkish herein inclosed, the contents of which, together with the information I am about to give, are carefully derived from the most trustworthy sources.

The Turkish forces in Thessaly, since the arrival of Rejib Pasha with reinforcements, consist of regulars:

24 battalions of infantry, 15,200 men; 3 regiments of cavalry, 1,500 men; 4 batteries of artillery, 24 pieces.

And of the irregular levies:—

2,000 Ghegbas, 1,200 Toshas, 1,000 Zeibecks; total, 4,200.

The following is a tabular view of the insurrectionary bands in this province:—

Insurrectionary Bands in Thessaly.

District.	Number of Insurgents.	Name of Chief.
Agia	800	(Unknown.)
Volo	3,000	Colonel Basileki.
Armyro	2,500	Vrioglus.
Domoko	(Unknown)	Farmaketti.
Karditza	2,000	Condo Yanghi.
Tricala	(Unknown)	Katarogha.

Since the withdrawal of the eight Hellenic battalions under General Soucho from the environs of Domoko, no authentic information has reached me of any Greek troops taking part in the present insurrection, though the civil and military Governors of Larissa have assured me that regulars are being seen among the revolutionary volunteers, but these are probably either deserters or insurgents wearing a uniform much resembling the Greek regimentals.

The above table shows that the insurrection is extending northwards, towards Mount Ossa in the east and Tricala in the west. There is some cause to fear that, as soon as fair weather sets in, rebellion will break out in all directions, as a great portion of the Christian population has but few interests at stake. In fact, the abject poverty of the lower classes, occasioned by the war, the failure of crops, the excesses of the irregulars, and heavy taxation, has rendered them quite reckless of all consequences.

As an instance to prove this, I myself have seen, in the district of Karditza, an impoverished rayah boldly declaring himself in open rebellion, because the Government had seized his horses, the insurgents his sheep, and the Bashi-Bazouks his effects.

Cases of this kind are very numerous.

The fears of the Christian population from the levies of wild, lawless Zeibecks, Toshas, and Ghegas, are daily on the increase, fears that are also participated in by the Mahommedans, since the proceedings of the irregulars in the districts of Phersala, Domoko, and Karditza, where they indiscriminately pursued a wholesale pillage of the Mahommedan and Christian villages, until a squadron of cavalry arrested their depredations, recovered the booty, and restored it to the rightful owners.

The panic of the Mahommedans, occasioned by the insurrection, is gradually subsiding. The fear, it appears, is more from imaginary than real causes, for the insurgents have conducted themselves hitherto with surprising moderation, considering that they recruit their ranks from among the worst characters. I can mention one village only as having been positively destroyed by them, it is that of Pashali, a small village of thirty houses in the district of Phersala, which I witnessed myself being burnt. This village was also attacked by Greeks during August last, when five of its houses were burnt, and eleven men, five women, and seven children, were killed and wounded. This affair had struck such terror into the Turks that nothing can now induce them to remain near the scene of the insurrection.

The authorities make many endeavours to reassure the people, but to no purpose; they cannot prevail on them to quit the towns and return to their villages. In con-

nection with these attempts I must not omit to mention a spectacle to which I was an eye-witness on the 10th instant.

A certain Osman Bey, of Karditza, in his eagerness to appease the fears of his co-religionists, whilst out riding with a body of Civic Guards, came across some rayahs. He charged upon them, three, terrified, attempted to escape, and were shot down.

Their heads, stuck on bayonets, were conveyed in triumph to Karditza, together with the rest of the rayahs as prisoners of war, Osman Bey spreading a report that they had encountered the insurgents and thoroughly defeated them!

I have not received yet your Excellency's instructions; they will probably reach me by to-morrow's mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

No. 171.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 132.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that at an interview which I had to-day with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, I expressed to his Excellency, in compliance with the orders conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 14 of the 7th instant, which reached me by messenger on the 21st instant, the great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt, by my telegram of the 6th instant, that orders had been given for the withdrawal of Greek troops from Turkish territory.

His Excellency thanked me for this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 172.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 134. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Count Maffei, the Italian Minister at this Court, informed me yesterday that he had lately received a despatch from his Government expressing most painful regret at the reports they had received as to the policy lately pursued by the Greek Government.

Count Maffei also told me that he should communicate the substance of this despatch to M. Delyanni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 173.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 26, 1878.

AT an interview which I had yesterday with the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, I stated to him that, from what I had heard in Athens, and from the report which reached me from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, I feared the enrolment of irregular bands was continuing. The enrolment of irregular bands to fight in Turkey was much the same policy, I said, that had been pursued in 1854, and I remarked that it was one which might discredit Greece in public opinion in Europe at a moment when she should do all she could to gain that good opinion, and that besides exposing the country to becoming involved in difficulties with Turkey, I was afraid the enrolment of men for the formation of irregular armed bands might be a source of eventual danger to the internal security of Greece. I reminded M. Delyanni of the answer your Lordship is reported in the "Times" of the 6th instant to have given to a deputation of Greek gentlemen who waited upon your Lordship at the

Foreign Office on the 5th instant, and I also told him what Sir Stafford Northcote is reported to have said in the House of Commons on the 8th instant as to the different Christian populations of Turkey, and I suggested to his Excellency that it would be better for the Greek Government, if possible, to discourage raids into Turkey on the part of private individuals, to do what they could to calm the public mind, and to await the decisions of the Great Powers, whose representatives in the Conference would examine with calmness into the whole question at issue in the East of Europe.

M. Delyanni said he thought my remarks deserving of consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 174.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 136.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 26, 1878.

M. DELYANNI told me yesterday that the Turkish Minister had complained that soldiers of the Greek army had been fighting in the ranks of the insurgents in Epirus, and his Excellency told me that some men had deserted, but that the Government was doing what it could to prevent desertion, and that the Minister for War had gone to Larnia to inquire into the matter. His Excellency said that the temptation to cross the frontiers to fight for the Christians was very strong, and that the leaders of irregular bands were endeavouring to induce the soldiers to do so.

I asked M. Delyanni if the army could not be withdrawn to Thebes, as there the troops would not be so much exposed to the temptation of crossing the frontiers; and I added that I thought such a measure would very probably discourage the insurrection, an object, in my opinion, I said, most desirable, as the insurrection appeared to be resulting in much loss of life among the Hellenic population in Turkey.

His Excellency did not give any definite reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 175.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 137. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 26, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 135 and 136 of to-day's date, I have the honour to report that I think it very doubtful whether the Greek Government is willing, or even able, considering the present state of public feeling in Greece, to prevent the enrolment and departure of irregular bands. This movement is now supported by many leading and influential persons; the present President of the Council of Ministers is, I believe, strongly in favour of it, and as he has the majority in the Chamber, it is hopeless to expect that, even if the Chamber were re-assembled, it would pronounce against his policy, and I am told that the only party leader who is opposed to the Government is M. Deligeorges, and that even some of his partizans no longer share his opinion on this point.

I am informed to-day that a large band has left Greece with a view of endeavouring to effect a landing in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 176.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 8.)

(No. 138. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Athens, February 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish Minister informed me to-day that M. Delyanni, the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, called

upon him yesterday evening, and stated that he had come from the Palace to inform him that, the Government having received information that an officer and two hundred men belonging to the force stationed near the frontiers of Epirus had deserted and entered that province, decrees had been signed: 1st, ordering the name of the officer who had deserted to be struck off the army list; 2nd, placing the name of the Colonel under whose immediate orders he was serving on the inactive list; 3rd, removing Colonel Sapountzalli, the officer in command of the forces on the frontiers of Epirus, from his command; 4th, dismissing the Nomarch of Acarnania from his office; and 5th, ordering the troops stationed on the frontiers of Epirus to withdraw to Agrynion.

Photiades Bey said that he felt certain the King was perfectly sincere, but that he was of opinion that his Ministers were deceiving him, and that although they were apparently anxious that no act of aggression against Turkey should take place which could compromise them, they were, in an under-hand manner ("sous main"), encouraging the enrolment and departure of irregular bands, which he said was becoming a very serious matter, and very difficult and very embarrassing for the Porte to deal with. Photiades Bey also said that M. Commoundouros, the President of the Council of Ministers, was disbursing the funds necessary for the formation and maintenance of these bands. Photiades Bey is not the only person who has spoken to me in the above sense with regard to M. Commoundouros.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 177.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 139.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 28, 1878.*

THE report that the Bulgaria which Russia appears to be bent upon forming is to extend to the Ægean Sea, and to include Mount Athos and Salonica, has caused a most painful impression here. The Greeks consider that if this reported condition of the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey is carried into effect it will be a death-blow to their national existence and aspirations, and that before long the greater part of Turkey in Europe will be completely under the influence of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 178.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 140. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Tricoupi called upon me this morning and told me that he was leaving this evening direct for London charged with a special mission from the Greek Government to plead the cause of Greece with Her Majesty's Government, and to take their advice as to the policy the Hellenic Government should pursue, adding that the Government were most anxious to shape their course in accordance with the views and policy of England. M. Tricoupi mentioned the possibility of his having also to go to St. Petersburgh, but he said that would depend upon the result of his mission to London, and he said that M. Delyanni, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, would inform me of the object of that mission.

From the conversation which I had with M. Tricoupi I gathered that he will in all probability, in the event of the Bulgaria, as proposed by Russia, being formed, put forward a request that Thessaly and Epirus be made over to Greece, for if this were done he said Greece could exist, and would be able to exercise through the Greek populations in Macedonia and Thrace a counteracting influence to the Slav element, but that if Greece were left as she is she would be unable to use that influence. I did not encourage M. Tricoupi in the idea that Greece would obtain any accession of territory, but I asked him out of curiosity what he thought the frontiers of Greece should be in the event of the formation of the new Bulgaria. He replied that he considered the line of frontier should be marked by the rivers Voiontza (ancient Aous) and Haliacmon, and that Konitza, Palæo Selo, and Grevno should be included within that line.

I then touched upon the question of the formation in and departure from Greece of irregular armed bands.

M. Tricoupi said that he was personally opposed to all movements of an irregular character, but that it was impossible now for Greece to remain perfectly tranquil, and he added that if the volunteers were recalled such a measure would give rise to a severe internal crisis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 179.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 141. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 28, 1878.*

SINCE writing and sending my despatch No. 140, Confidential, of to-day's date, to the Piræus to be given to the messenger who should arrive there to-night from Constantinople, I have seen M. Tricoupi, who told me that some objections had been raised to his departure for London, and that he was at any rate not going to start to-night. He told me that he did not know for certain the exact nature of the objections, but that he was under the impression that M. de Sabouroff, the Russian Minister, had been using his influence against his mission, and that he thought one reason why M. de Sabouroff might be doing so was that he might possibly be under the impression that he (M. Tricoupi) might have in view the bringing about of closer relations between England and Greece.

I may mention to your Lordship, with reference to the above idea, that a desire for an alliance with England, in the event of war, appears to be becoming general in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 180.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 8.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 7 Mars, 1878.*

REÇU télégramme No. 134.

Le texte du Traité vous sera communiqué aussitôt que faire se pourra. En attendant, je dois observer qu'il y a erreur dans la déclaration du chiffre de l'indemnité qui est toujours de 40,000,000, et non de 12,000,000. Quant au tribut d'Egypte, il n'a été pris aucun engagement à ce sujet.

No. 181.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 8.)

(Secret.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, March 7, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, dated the 27th February, reporting on the state of affairs at Gallipoli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Jupiter*," *at Gallipoli, February* 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that all is at present quiet at Gallipoli. The present Pasha in command has greatly improved the aspect of affairs. Fort Sultan has been repaired, and a shelter-trench dug in front of the work. The work on the extreme left, which appears to me the weakest, has also been strengthened by an interior shelter-trench, and a very good road is nearly finished along the whole length of the lines, and as I acquainted you in my letter of the 20th instant, will connect with the main road leading by the coast of Gallipoli.

I rode all over the lines yesterday and counted eighty-six guns in the forts and elsewhere, eighty-four of these were mounted, the remaining two not in position.

Fort Napoleon has only two guns, but there are platforms for, I think, ten. The parapets still seem in want of repair.

Zahbit Pasha continues to show a considerable amount of energy, but I fear he is not a sober man.

A despatch vessel has arrived from Constantinople with orders to convey three battalions to Crete. Denuding the garrison in this way of about 2,000 men is, I consider, at such a moment, greatly to be deprecated.

I visited the Turkish outpost at Examile to-day, and found the Russians had withdrawn across the Kavvach River, having their outposts at about twelve miles from Bulair. I could see large numbers of Russians in the village of Kadikoi, and have reason to believe their main body is there. Kadikoi is about fifteen miles from Bulair.

I observed that the Turks had commenced two new outworks between the village of Bulair and the lines. The positions chosen are well enough, but there are no guns either at these or any other of the Turkish outworks.

I heard this afternoon from Mr. Vice-Consul Odoni that Hassein Pasha had received orders not to permit the French or German squadrons to pass the Dardanelles in the event of their trying to do so; also that no reinforcements were to be allowed to join the English squadron. I do not know if this is really the case, but there is always the danger of arrangements which may have been made one day being upset the next by a change at Pashas, or an alteration of policy at Constantinople.

As the mail is closing (at 11 P.M.), I learn from the Senior Officer at Besika that the "John Pender" is engaged in extending the telegraph cable from Tenedos Island to Besika.

I have, &c.
(Signé) J. E. COMMERELL.

No. 182.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 8.)

(Secret.) *Admiralty, March* 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell's general letter, dated 22nd February, reporting his proceedings at Gallipoli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Gallipoli, February 22, 1878.

(Extract.)

HIS Excellency the Pasha of Chanak, whom I saw yesterday, having stated that he would not regard with the slightest degree of jealousy an exchange of stations between the "Swiftsure" and "Hotspur," the latter ship has been ordered to join my flag at this place to-day.

I also do myself the honour of transmitting to you the copy of an order I have deemed it right to send to the Senior Officer in the Gulf of Xeros and to the Senior Officer at Besika, directing that the passage of Her Majesty's ships through the Straits of the Dardanelles is always to be carried out in daylight, Hussein Pasha having expressed a desire that no vessel should pass up at night except under the most urgent necessity, as the Arrangements for according permission entail such a number of orders to the forts.

No. 183.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 8, 1878, 8 A.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is ready to accept Congress at Berlin provided that no questions are discussed which do not arise directly or naturally out of the war.

No. 184.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 300.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 8, 1878.

RAOUF PASHA has been appointed Ottoman Ambassador at St. Petersburgh for the exchange of Ratifications of Peace.

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 8, 1878.

I AM informed that intrigues are going on to produce risings in different parts of Syria, and that disturbances may break out in that country, and even in Asia Minor.

No. 186.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, March* 8, 1878.

I AM informed that Malcom Khan has been in communication with your Lordship, with a view to obtaining assent of Her Majesty's Government to the Turco-Persian boundary question being submitted for settlement to the Conference about to be held by the European Powers.

A similar communication was made at St. Petersburgh, and Russia, I am informed, has given her consent. Persian Minister asks if I have any information as to the views of Her Majesty's Government on this matter.

It seems to me that it would be desirable that a final adjustment of this long-standing difficulty should now be attained. Otherwise, in all probability, in consequence of the territorial losses sustained by Turkey elsewhere, complications may shortly arise which will endanger the peaceful relations of the two Mahommedan States.

No. 187.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 8, 5·40 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 8, 1878, 2·30 P.M.*

IN reply to a communication made by the Austrian Ambassador, M. Depretis expressed readiness of the Italian Government to accept the Congress at Berlin when proposed by German Government.

No. 188.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 8, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have agreed to Berlin as the place of meeting of the Congress.

In stating this to the Austrian Ambassador I have told him that Her Majesty's Government think it would be desirable to have it understood, in the first place, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey shall be considered as subject to be discussed in Congress; and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty shall be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

I also asked Count Beust if the Austrian Government is prepared to lay down any bases for the Conference, and, if so, what they were.

No. 189.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

(No. 182.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 8, 1878.*

THE French Ambassador read to me this afternoon a telegram from his Government stating that the Austrian Ambassador had communicated the proposal of the Austrian Government that the Conference should meet at Berlin, and had added that, as soon as the other Powers had agreed to this suggestion, the official invitations would be addressed to them by the Cabinet of Berlin. M. Waddington had replied that the French Government were ready to agree; but he repeated at the same time the explicit reservation which he had before made that it must be understood that the Congress should confine itself to the discussion of questions arising directly and naturally out of the recent war. He declared that this reservation was meant to exclude not only all questions relating to the west of Europe, but those Eastern questions which had not been raised by late events, and in illustration of his meaning he cited Egypt. The questions of Syria and of the Holy Places, M. Waddington adds, come within the same category. He stated that France could not officially accept the invitation to the Congress of Berlin without having received formal assurances on this point, without which French public opinion would not be satisfied. Count de Vogué has been instructed to explain the views of the French Government clearly to Count Andrassy. M. Waddington remarks that it is in the interest of all the Powers that the field for the deliberations of the Congress, already sufficiently large, should not be further extended.

I thanked M. d'Harcourt for this communication.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 190.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 137.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 8, 1878.*

THE Italian Ambassador told me this afternoon that he was instructed to express the desire of his Government to act in concert with England in regard to the affairs of Egypt and of Tunis.

No. 188[a].

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 344. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 8, 1878.*

I HAVE noticed in reading several of your Excellency's despatches that the accounts given by Musurus Pasha to the Porte of his conversations with me, if correctly repeated to you, convey a very inaccurate impression of the language which I have held to him, and although I should regret to have to make any observation on the subject either to him or to the Turkish Government, I think it right to point out the instances which have come under my notice in case any further reference should be made to them by the Turkish Ministers in conversation with you.

In your despatch No. 60 of the 14th January you mention a telegram which was received by the Porte from Musurus Pasha, stating the substance of a conversation of which the purport is briefly given in my despatch to your Excellency No. 58 of the 13th of that month. You state that "Musurus Pasha ended by saying that I had told him that I had directed you to ask the Porte whether it wished the English fleet to enter the Dardanelles and English troops to disembark at and occupy Gallipoli."

It is scarcely necessary for me to inform your Excellency that I made no mention whatever of disembarking troops or of an occupation of Gallipoli. The instructions sent to you are recorded in my despatch No. 53 of the 13th, and the inquiry you were directed to make referred solely to the question of anchoring the British fleet within the Dardanelles.

In your despatch No. 120 of the 26th January you state that Musurus Pasha was directed to ask me whether, in the event of negotiations being broken off in consequence of the demands of Russia being such that they could not be accepted without ruin to the Empire, the Turkish Government could still look to Her Majesty's Government to prevent a Russian occupation of Constantinople; and that his Excellency reported my answer to be to the effect that the occupation of the capital depended upon military considerations, and that England could not oppose it.

I presume it is to this that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha referred in the observation related by your Excellency in your despatch No. 212 of the 10th ultimo: "His Highness begged me to request Her Majesty's Government at least to respect their own declaration that the English Cabinet would not interfere, even if the Russians entered Constantinople."

I am not aware of any declaration which has been made by Her Majesty's Government to this effect. Your Excellency will find among the correspondence that has been forwarded to you a telegram from the Porte to Musurus Pasha, dated January 23, conveying a request that Her Majesty's Government would prevent the Russians from marching upon Constantinople. When Musurus Pasha communicated this request to me I informed him that Her Majesty's Government had already made the Russian Government fully acquainted with the objections which they entertained on political grounds to a Russian occupation of the capital, and that as we were not prepared to take military measures to check the Russian advance, I did not know what further steps we could take with advantage for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

I told General Menabrea that I had no reason to suppose that the interests of England and Italy in those two countries could in any way conflict; and I said that Her Majesty's Government would be happy to act in union with that of Italy in regard to them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 191.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 177.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1878.

I SAW the Austrian Ambassador this afternoon, and informed him that Her Majesty's Government were willing to agree to Berlin as the place of meeting of the Conference.

I asked Count Beust if the Austrian Government were prepared to lay down any bases for the discussion of the Conference, and if so, what those bases were.

Count Beust replied that he had no information on the subject, but that he would address an inquiry to Count Andrassy.

I said that Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that it would be desirable to have it understood, in the first place, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 192.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 7. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 8, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 24, Political, of the 25th ultimo, respecting the state of affairs in Crete, and reporting the steps which you had offered to take with a view to bring about a cessation of hostilities; and I have now to convey to you my approval of your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 193.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 22. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 20, 1878.

THE Cretan General Assembly, sitting at Argyropolis, has addressed to the Consuls of the Great Powers and of Greece resident in this town a memorial, of which I have the honour, herewith, to inclose a translation.

The document begins by stating that the Cretan people hoped that their demands would have been listened to by the Porte, because they had been advanced by the General Assembly of 1876, and reiterated in 1877. The Porte ended by acknowledging their legality in accepting the Petition of the Cretans, who assembled last August to support those demands, but they paid no heed to them as long as their arms continued to prosper, and it was only when the fortune of war declared against them that they consented to send two Commissioners to treat with the Cretans. Finding the Commissioners indisposed seriously to discuss their demands, the committee thought it its duty, in the interests of the country, to formulate the following four demands, viz.:—

1. That the form of Government in Crete be autonomous.

2. That the Chief of the autonomous State be chosen by the people.
3. That the Island pay an annual tribute to the Porte of 500,000 piastres.
4. That the constitution thus laid down be guaranteed by the Great Powers.

They granted the Commissioners a delay of seven days for the answer to be returned by the Porte, a delay agreed to by them. They justify the fourth demand by the consideration that, although no country has been able to wrest more privileges from the Porte than Crete, yet none has suffered so much by reason of their privileges not being guaranteed by the Powers.

The General Assembly (meaning thereby the self-constituted body of that name), has done its utmost to avoid an insurrection, although for the last three months the whole population has been in arms, and the forces of the Government are unequal to the task of preserving order. The pacific disposition of the Assembly has sufficed, nevertheless, to prevent the outbreak of hostilities, and the Porte cannot deny that the Christians have neither attacked the small detachments of troops scattered here and there, nor done any injury to the Mussulman civil population.

Six days having elapsed since the expiration of the term of seven days agreed to by the Commissioners for an answer to their demands, the General Assembly unanimously made the following declaration, viz.: That they break off all negotiations with the Commissioners, and appeal to the Great Powers, whom they entreat to take the Cretan question into their consideration at the approaching Conference, having regard to the programmes set forth in 1821, 1841, and 1856, in which programmes they declared the island to be annexed to Greece. (A translation of the Declaration I had the honour to inclose in my despatch No. 20 of the 18th instant.)

"We have now" (they continue) "entered upon a new phase, in consequence of the non-response of the Porte, which we consider equivalent to a refusal, and it only remained for us to change the programme of the Assembly, and refer the entire question regarding Crete to the highest political sphere. The General Assembly considers itself justified in breaking off negotiations with the Porte, but it does not purpose to stoop to a struggle against Turkey. Four times has it done this, viz., in 1769, 1821, 1841, and 1866, the sacrifices made in those struggles sufficing to prove the real wishes of the Cretans; and the Assembly now, in the 2nd Article of its Declaration, appeals to the Great Powers." The Memorial then undertakes the superfluous task of proving from the Treaty of Paris of 1856 that the Great Powers have the right of interference in the affairs of Crete, and more particularly that England, France, and Russia have that right in virtue of the note of the 27th March, 1830, &c.

"The General Assembly," they go on to say, "in begging the Powers to take into consideration in the approaching Conference the programmes of the insurrections of 1821, 1841, and 1866, evidently intend thereby to signify that the desire manifested by the Cretan people during those insurrections was the union of their country with Greece,—a solution which they consider the only radical one. In realizing this desire, the Great Powers will be making the only reparation possible for the injustice committed against Crete at the close of the Hellenic struggle of 1821, viz., in 1830.

Finally, the Cretan Christians will wait for the decision of the Great Powers, their arms in their hands for greater security; but they will not have recourse to hostilities against the Porte nor to injuries against the native Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Translation of Memorial addressed to Consuls of Great Powers, Athens or Canea by the General Assembly of the Cretans.

Sir,

FIVE months ago, as you are aware, the indignation of the people commenced to manifest itself against the Power now ruling in Candia by an active and public demonstration; by this step the Candiots hoped that the Sublime Porte would this time at least give an ear to their complaints, for two reasons:—

1st. Because the established demands by the demonstration were identically the same as those that had already been submitted to the Sublime Porte by the Annual Assembly of the Candiots, at Chania, convoked by the General Assembly at their annual meetings in 1876 and 1877, and readily embraced by the whole Christian population of Candia, who strenuously manifested it by many acts, and also by their

refusing to choose Administrators and Counsellors of Justice; but they were repeatedly rejected by the Ottoman Government.

2nd. That in case of the Porte again giving denial to their demands, she was thus forcing the people to extremes, increasing also the embarrassments she was already surrounded by—many parts of her dominions being in insurrection, and also involved in a war with Russia. But the Porte unfortunately, though cognizant of the legality of the demonstration, having once admitted the petition of those who took part in it in August, 1877, nevertheless, as long as the fortune of war appeared to favour her, she refused to take into consideration the just and reasonable claims of her people; showing by this act continued hostile feelings against the Christian populations of Candia, and thus compelling them to think of the necessity of not confining themselves to these moderate claims. But as soon as the fortune of arms turned in favour of Russia, the Sublime Porte resolved to take into consideration the complaints of the country, having in the meantime authorised Costi Adossidi Pasha, her Envoy Extraordinary, to proceed to Candia. The Christian population were as much justified in their way of thinking, as the Envoy Extraordinary after his arrival there, under many pretences, declined to enter into an understanding and negotiations with the representatives of the people. The first reason of Costi Pasha was to the effect that the General Assembly not being then constituted by representatives from all the counties of the Island, it was a clear pretence to postpone the solution of the question until the fate of war could be more clearly decided. And the following incidents prove it.

Only a few provinces in Candia raised the question in 1858, but the Sublime Porte received their petition, presented in the name of the whole island. Her Envoys Extraordinary, amongst whom was Costi Pasha, soon commenced negotiations with the then existing representatives of the people, without at the time appearing to oppose their wishes under the plea that it was not composed of representatives from all the provinces of the island; and this is confirmed by the text of the Firman, issued then, in which so many privileges were granted, and which commenced as follows:—

"We having taken into our consideration the petition of the many provinces (Nahiyhets) of the Island of Candia."

Independently of this, not even Samih Pasha raised any objection to it on receiving the petition of the Assembly, though such a petition was not signed by all the provinces of the island; and even the Sublime Porte was not influenced by this event, but in consideration of this petition, she sent Costi Pasha as her Envoy Extraordinary to Candia, who, on this occasion, when the hazard of war turned against his Government, contradicted himself by opening negotiations with the existing representatives, well knowing that some of the eastern counties were not represented.

In consequence of the Sublime Porte, and her Envoy Extraordinary, weighing matters in accordance with its turn of war, the Christian people also acted contrary in order to protect themselves against the future arbitrary conduct of the Porte; for this reason, the General Assembly, in their negotiations with the Envoy Extraordinary, submitted the following question, under the condition that within seven days the Sublime Porte was to give an answer; this was proposed and sanctioned by Costi Adossidi Pasha.

1. Self-government and autonomy.
2. The Chief of the Executive Power to be chosen by the people.
3. A tribute of 500,000 piastres to be paid yearly to the Imperial Government.
4. The above to be guaranteed by the Great European Powers.

As you observe Mr. Consul, in the above claims there is a clause that the Great Powers should become guarantees; this clause has been considered as absolutely necessary by the people. No other nation under Turkey had ever wrenched so many privileges from her as Candia has done, but none had ever been so much persecuted, made miserable, and her people exiled, because the concessions at all times were not backed with a European guarantee; they were in consequence violated and trampled upon by the Sublime Porte. No wonder that after so many sufferings the Candiots did not refer their country's grievances to a higher political sphere instead of confining it to a settlement with their own Government.

We are therefore fully justified for this policy, and in our having submitted such demands to the Porte. Meanwhile, from what we gather from the above, and from the course the General Assembly pursued, it is evidently clearly shown that they endured every sacrifice in order to put off the dangers and evils of a new revolution; and though the Assembly had before her the favourable opportunity for a new attempt

to throw off the Turkish yoke, encouraged as it was by the great weakness, dangers, and misfortunes that surrounded the Sublime Porte, she would not be the first to undertake the fearful responsibility of a new war, and as a proof of the peaceful inclinations of the Assembly, and to avoid a fearful crisis, she did not fail to exercise every influence to calm the excitement, and prevent any act that might tend to provoke another sanguinary struggle.

The Sublime Porte cannot deny that for the last two years the country has been in a great state of agitation since she rejected the demands for the modification of the Organic Laws, and also for the last three months the country has been in a state of revolution, the whole population being in arms. The Sublime Porte being deprived of moral influence and unable to subdue and maintain the general order, the General Assembly succeeded, thanks to her peaceful inclinations, to restore order in such a disturbed state of affairs.

The Sublime Porte cannot deny also that in no place the armed Christians attacked her scattered armies, either in one place or the other, and not a single native Mussulman's life, property, or honour were assailed by armed Christians, though the native Mussulmans declined this time also to take a part in our cause.

In the meantime, instead of listening to the just complaints of the country, and give due consideration to the circumstances, and also to the peaceful disposition of the people, and to their firm resolution not to be any longer satisfied with partly executed promises, the Sublime Porte acted to the contrary. Six days had already elapsed from the time fixed, and even then Costi Pasha did not deign to give an answer, and the Ottoman Government gave the Candiots to understand that they must not expect any effectual benefit from her. In consequence of which the General Assembly of the Candiots unanimously decreed the following resolutions:—

1. That every negotiation with the Ottoman Government be broken off.

2. That she appeals to the Great Powers, entrusting to their humanity and justice the solution of the Candian question.

3. She implores the Great Powers to take into consideration, in the ensuing European Conference, the programme of the Candian Christians and their holy struggles of 1821, 1841, and 1866.

We have, therefore, the honour to annex hereon the entire decree.

In consequence of our country's affairs having taken another phase, and the Sublime Porte declining to grant us an answer, meaning by this her refusal to our demands, there are no other means left to us but to change our hitherto programme, and refer the whole question to the highest political sphere; it would be useless for the Candiots to expect any justice and humanity from the Ottoman Government, while for the last two years the Candiots employed every effort to become reconciled with the Sublime Porte, but our endeavours were frustrated against the stubborn resolution of bad administration on the part of the Sublime Porte. The General Assembly, therefore, is fully entitled, in accordance with the resolution of the 1st Article, to break off every negotiation with the Ottoman Government, but by these measures the General Assembly does not intend to enter into a struggle with Turkey; our country had hitherto gone to war four times, the first in 1769, the second in 1821, when the struggle lasted ten years, the third, in 1841, and the fourth in 1866, when we fought for three years against the whole power of the Ottoman Empire. The blood of the many thousands of Christians that had been shed, the destruction of property, and other sacrifices are more than enough, and this the Candiots indisputably believe. Therefore there is no necessity for the further shedding of blood, fresh destructions, and new sacrifices. The General Assembly, inspired with these sentiments, considered it their duty to appeal to the Great Powers, and entrust to their justice and humanity the solution of the Candian question, and this had been acted upon by virtue of the 2nd Article.

We, the Candiots, believe that we are acting within our rights, by appealing to the Great Powers who have the privilege of interference in affairs connected with the East by virtue of the Treaty of 1856, and especially in reference to Candia, England, France, and Russia, as signatories to the note of $\frac{\text{March 27}}{\text{April 8}}$, 1830, addressed to Turkey, after the Protocol of $\frac{\text{January 22}}{\text{February 3}}$ 1830. We derive this from the seventh paragraph of the communication, the contents of which are as follows:—

"Les Soussignés sont encore chargés par elles de fixer sur un objet qu'elles ont vivement à cœur l'attention du Gouvernement de sa Hautesse, ainsi qu'ils l'ont observé déjà. Les Iles de Samos et Candie doivent rester sous la domination de la Porte et être indépendantes de la nouvelle Puissance qu'il a été convenu d'établir en Grèce. Toutefois les Cours, en vertu des engagements qu'elles ont contractés d'un

commun accord, se croyent tenues d'assurer aux habitants de Candie et de Samos une sécurité contre toute réaction quelconque, à raison de la part qu'ils auraient prise aux événements antérieurs, et c'est cette sécurité qu'elles réclament pour eux de la Sublime Porte, en lui demandant de la baser sur des règlements précis qui, rappellant leurs anciens privilèges, ou leur accordent ceux que l'expérience aurait prouvé leur être nécessaires, offriraient à ces populations une protection efficace contre des actes arbitraires et oppressifs. Les trois Cabinets se plaisent à croire que dans sa sagesse éclairée la Sublime Porte se convaincra elle-même qu'attendu les rapports de proximité et de religion qui unissent les Grecs de Samos et de Candie aux sujets du nouvel Etat, une administration équitable et douce est le moyen le plus certain d'y maintenir sa domination sur des bases inébranlables."

It is evident from the above that the three Great Powers, in delivering up our country to Turkey, placed us under their high protection, signifying thus clearly that Turkey could not in the future exercise over Candia the privileges of a conqueror, but at the most to act as a protecting and depository Power. The Powers also pointed out to Turkey an exceptional system of Government, but refrained from fixing the exact terms, in the belief that the Sublime Porte, taking under her view "the object of the common alliance," of the Treaty of the 6th July, 1827, and also the relation of the Candiots with the free Greeks, would direct from home the application and explanation of this system. We are fully persuaded that the Great Powers are justified in effectually interfering on behalf of our country, and independently of the above reasons the following also tend to justify their doing so:—

1st. The Sublime Porte, by her official communication dated 12th April, 1830 (1st Zilcadé, 1245), recognised without reserve the terms touching Candia which the Great Powers laid before Turkey by their note $\frac{\text{27th March}}{\text{8th April}}$, 1830, and which, as it is known, the Sublime Porte never executed.

2nd. That as long as Turkey possesses authority over Candia, so long shall the force of this note of the Powers and this notification remain in existence.

3rd. The present opportunity is the most suitable to the Great Powers to exercise privileges emanating from the Treaty of 1856, and particularly England, France, and Russia have the power, by virtue of the above said documents of 1830 relating to Candia. The new phase that the Eastern question has taken after the Constantinople Conference, its breaking up, and followed by the Russo-Turkish war, presents the most opportune moment.

It is true that the Great Powers by the Conference confirmed more than ever the principle of interfering in the contentions between any Christian nation and Turkey, and the solution of the dispute did not constitute the submission of that Christian nation to the existing Turkish laws, even if they were constitutional; at least, the present Russo-Turkish war decreed that whatsoever Christian Power resolved even forcibly to compel Turkey to recognise the decision of the other Powers in favour of the Christians, such a decision would be applauded by the civilised world as a sacred and just one.

Meanwhile, the Candiots, entrusting the solution of the question to the care of the Great Powers, they cannot refrain from expressing their great wish for the solution of the question they consider a just one; and this sentiment is fully expressed by the General Assembly in the 3rd Article. In praying to the Great Powers to take into consideration the programmes of the Revolution of 1821, 1841, and 1866 in the expected European Conference, it plainly expresses the hearty wishes of the Candiots for the restoration of their country.

We do not conceal that this is the only effectual solution. The Candiots are closely connected with the inhabitants of the Greek Kingdom, both by religion, race, traditions, manners, customs, and language, and also by common struggles and mutual obligations.

During the whole period of the Greek Revolution in 1821 the Candiots fought bravely side by side with the inhabitants of the Greek Kingdom; and, after the condemnation of their own country under the Turkish rule, thousands of fugitives having taken refuge in free Greece, they met with a true and brotherly reception. Events similar to these happened to us in 1866, when, by their blood and prolific contributions, our Greek brothers helped us, and for two consecutive years fed and fully maintained more than 60,000 women and children who, in order to escape the Turkish atrocities, the Great Powers carried to Greece in their own vessels. But the above reasons, though very powerful, are not the only ones that tend to show to the General Conference the reasonable and just solution; independently of them we have to record the following facts:—

The three Great Powers—England, France, and Russia—in their high wisdom, resolved to put an end to the prolonged and bloody war between the Greeks and Turks in 1821, and laid as the basis of their operations the pacification of those countries which, though they had taken an active part in the war, contained also Mussulman inhabitants, "in order," as the Treaty says of 24th June/6th July, 1827, "to put a stop to encounters which are the inevitable results of a prolonged struggle;" for this reason, by the 1st Article of the Treaty, the political power was wrenched from the hands of the Turks. But Candia, though then nearly one-third of her population were Turks of the most fanatic description; and though she had taken a very active part in the struggle, and at last deprived the Turks of Gramvoussa, the strongest fortress in the island, and confined them in the fortresses of Chania, Rathimno, and Erucly; notwithstanding all this Candia was not included in the newly-created Greek Kingdom. In vain our fathers, from whom Gramvoussa had been forcibly taken along with all the materials for prolonging the war, protested against this horrible injustice, and this was done to execute the terms of the alliance. In vain the Greek authorities—the Assembly, the Senate, and the Government—represented by the late Capodistria, protested against it. In vain, also, the Representatives of the Great Protecting Powers at Constantinople, by their notification at Poro, dated 26th September/8th December, 1828, to the Greek Government, acknowledged the injustice done and openly declared that "Candia is in open revolution, and they consider it their duty to represent to the Alliance their many rights, and in her name to appeal for the powerful protection and execution of the principles of the London Treaty." In vain again, after the Greek independency, the ever-remembered Leopold, in his answer of 30th January/11th February, 1830, to the Representatives of the Great Powers, warmly took up the cause of Candia and invoked on her behalf "the application of the Treaty of the 6th July, 1827." The just claims of our country were fully recognized by the Courts of the Allied Powers, but were not effectually acted upon: and this we fully affirm as not being made use of, by not handing to the Greek Kingdom other provinces in exchange for Candia and Samos.

The acknowledgment of our country's rights, and her being handed over to Turkey in exchange, is also admitted by the Representatives of the Allied Powers in the mentioned note of 27th March/8th April, 1830: "In case of being demanded from Turkey as the fourth paragraph says, the cession of the Island Egrypos and the fortresses of the provinces in eastern Greece, she will receive as compensation, the reconquest of all western Greece, which is at present in the hands of Greeks, &c., viz., of provinces that will in future be handed over to Greece according to Treaties of 24th June/6th July and 13th/25th August, 1832."

It must not be forgotten, the note says, by the Sublime Porte, that the alliance imposes the obligation to the Greeks to give up Samos, and that part of Candia that had hitherto been under their control.

It is clearly shown, Mr. Consul, that even under diplomatic views, the most reasonable solution of the Candian question will be the annexation of that island to the Greek Kingdom, and such a solution will tend to rectify the injustice done to Candia in the struggle of 1821.

And now that the Great Powers are thinking of solving many questions pending in the East, and the convocation of a European Conference is not far distant, it would be an act of justice, and worthy of the civilization represented by the Great Powers, to rectify the wrongs that Candia suffered in 1830. The Candiots are in hopes that the Great Powers will solve this question every way in a just and reasonable manner, as shown by the General Assembly of the Candiots, their hopes being strengthened by the facts that the Great Powers recognized once more in 1866 the question of their cause, when, in answer to the Memorandum of 10th April, 1867, Phouat Pasha, Minister of Foreign Affairs then in Turkey, the Great Powers, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia, and Italy, proposed to the Sublime Porte the solving also of the Candian question, by an appeal to the Candiots for a general vote. This proposal of the Great Powers, which consecrates another additional right to our country, it clearly shows a desire to rectify the injustice of 1830. The Candiots, judging from their former actions, appeared openly to favour a union with the Greek Kingdom, and this is clearly shown, by this programme of the revolution, and by the revolutionary authorities acting in the name of George I, King of Hellenes.

Finally, we beg, Mr. Consul, of the Great Powers to act in the future energetically in order to check the Turkish Government from taking violent steps against the Christian population; the war in this case will take place against our Mussulman fellow citizens, who are now sympathizing with the Sublime Porte, and such a war will take a course of horrible and wild dimensions, and will tend also to excite the

hatred between the two parties, and thus render it impossible for them to live peaceably together in the future, which we do not desire.

The Christians are desirous to live in the future in harmony and equality of rights with their fellow citizens the Mussulmans, as people of all denominations and nationalities live together in civilized parts of the world. The Candians, with arms in hand for their own safety, will wait for the decision of the Great Powers, and will not commence hostilities against the Turkish Government, nor commit any atrocities against the Mussulmans their fellow citizens.

In the meantime the General Assembly will employ all means in her power for the maintenance of peace and order in the country.

We are in hopes, Mr. Consul, that in transmitting this our humble petition to your Government, of which you are the worthy representative, you will accompany it with your favourable recommendations on behalf of the suffering Christians of Candia.

We do humbly subscribe ourselves, &c.

(Signed) JOSEPH H. BOURTHUMBAS, *President of the General Assembly.*
A. G. LIPHACAS, *Vice-President.*
G. BLASSIADIS, *Secretary.*
(Here follow 170 signatures.)

No. 194.

Consul-General Fawcett to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 30. Consular.)

Constantinople, February 28, 1878.

My Lord,

TO-DAY I have received information that all the English employés at Tophana are about to be dismissed, with the exception of a few old men who have been more than twenty years in the Ottoman service, and also that the men at Haskieui will receive a similar notice of dismissal.

These two establishments are the arsenal and dockyards of the Turkish Government. About some 250 English families will thus be thrown on their own resources.

Some of them may probably have saved something, but the majority I expect will come to me asking to be sent to England as distressed British subjects, and whose troubles can be traced to this war, and although the expense will be very great I conceive I shall have no option but to send them home under your Lordship's instructions of 10th August last.

Should there ever in the future be a chance of their obtaining employment it is very doubtful whether it would be desirable for them to remain here under present circumstances.

The sanitary condition of Constantinople at present is very bad, and will, I fear, become worse as the hot weather comes in.

According to the Government account there are 150,000 refugees in Constantinople, Scutari, and the villages on the Bosphorus, nine-tenths of whom are Mussulmans.

To these people the Government has as yet pretty generally given half an oke of bread, about 1¼ lb. a-day, or 2 piastres in raisé, about 1½*d.*, in lieu of it, but even this is beginning to fail, and a few days ago Ahmed Veifk, the Prime Minister, was in such straits as to beg 1,000*l.* from his Excellency Mr. Layard, from the "Compassionate Fund," to get bread for a couple of days, and the next day Mehmet Ressin Pasha, Prefect of Stamboul, came to me, because I am President of the International Refugee Fund, with a similar request.

The two above-named societies support between them at this moment upwards of 40,000 distressed people, but we do not see our way to carry it on beyond the end of March. Of course the whole of the "Compassionate Fund" comes from England, and though Germany and France have subscribed more than usual, yet 75 per cent. of the "International Fund" has also come from Great Britain, and we cannot expect such generosity to continue much longer. Meanwhile, the Government has the utmost difficulty in continuing the dole of bread to the rest of the distressed people. This is, however, not all. Pestilence has only too surely followed war and famine; typhoid fever and small-pox have broken out amongst this starving and ill-housed crowd, to whom all sanitary regulations are unknown, and it is the opinion of all medical men with whom I have conversed, that we are in the commencement of a

frightful epidemic. In some degree to meet this the "International Fund" has created several detached hospitals at Seraïo Point, and to-day and yesterday have been employed in taking small-pox patients out of the crowded mosques where, till now, they have lain side by side with the hitherto uninfected, and conveying them thither. A small hospital has also been constructed at each village on the Bosphorus in order, if possible, to isolate those affected with contagious diseases.

I am also informed, but not officially, that the Daoud-Pasha Barracks, about two miles outside Stamboul, have been demanded by the Russian Commander-in-chief, and conceded by the Turks as an hospital for the Russian sick, who are suffering from a virulent form of typhus fever, not unknown to armies which have undergone great privations.

Most distressing accounts come in to me from Adrianople, Gallipoli, and Salonica, to which centres crowds of wretched refugees have also flocked, while equally terrible reports of suffering are sent from Broussa (where small-pox is raging), and from Gemlek and Moudania, on the Asiatic side, to which place thousands of refugees have been transported by the Government. Lastly, between Beicos and Scutari, on the Anatolia side, typhus bovinus is decimating the cattle, and the same scourge has broken out at Gallipoli and Enos.

I have thought it my duty to give your Lordship a short and truthful account of the state of this place, which is never remarkable for its sanitary state even in normal times, and which, but for its unrivalled situation, would always be a hotbed of pestilence, and also to give to your Lordship some idea at what a fearful price of human suffering the so-called emancipation of the Christian races of Bulgaria has been purchased.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HENRY FAWCETT.

No. 195.

Sir E. Thornton to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 50. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Washington, February* 25, 1878.

A TELEGRAM was published in most of the newspapers at Washington on the 18th instant, to the effect that the "Observer" newspaper, of London, had expressed its belief that Russia had represented to England that the United States, as a great Maritime Power, should participate in the approaching Congress on the Eastern Question. The telegram added that England had not objected, but had taken advantage of the proposal to suggest that Greece should also be allowed to take part in the Congress.

The next time I saw Mr. Evarts I asked him whether he had observed this piece of news, and whether he supposed that there was any truth in it. He replied that he knew nothing more than what the newspapers said, and that the United States' Government had received no invitation of the nature indicated.

My Turkish colleague informed me confidentially that he had made a similar inquiry, and had received the same reply, with the addition that, if the United States should receive an invitation to take part in such a Congress, it would be duly considered, although to accept it would be a deviation from the traditions and general policy of the United States.

I thought it right to send a telegram to your Lordship on this subject on the 20th instant.

I have now the honour to inclose some articles from different newspapers published at Washington, upon the subject, and one from the "Sun" of New York.

The earliest of these articles, which appeared in the "Evening Star" and "National Union" of Washington, rather favour the idea of accepting such an invitation if it were made; but my Turkish colleague suspects—and his suspicion seems to me to be well founded—that Mr. Evarts and his Government would consider the invitation as a flattering one, and would be inclined to accept it; but that the two articles above-mentioned were inspired by the State Department with a view to sounding public opinion upon the subject, and inviting its expression.

The inclosed article from the "Sun," of New York, opposes the acceptance of such an invitation; it argues that the United States would gain no advantage by

taking part in the Congress, and might bring upon itself serious obligations; and it deprecates this country's entering into entangling alliances.

The article in the "Sunday Herald" seems almost to be intended as an answer to the "Sun's" article.

An article in the "Washington Post" of the 23rd instant, states that an intimation has been conveyed to the State Department that if the United States desires to be represented in the European Conference "a formal invitation will be extended."

If this be true, I presume that the intimation in question was made by my Russian colleague on the 21st instant, when I know that he had a conversation on the subject with Mr. Evarts, though I have been unable to ascertain what passed between them on that occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 196.

Consul Sir C. Scbright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, February* 28, 1878.

REFERRING to the details conveyed in my despatch of the 25th instant, No 11, Political, relative to the landing, on the night of the 23rd preceding, of a body of so-called "volunteers" on the coast of Epirus, I have now the honour to report, on reliable authority, that the exact number of those adventurers was 1,050, who were well supplied with money and all other appliances, with the exception of artillery, for raising an insurrection in the province.

2. More precise information enables me to state that it was the Fort of Santi Quaranta—not that of Delvino—they had succeeded in capturing by a *coup de main*.

3. No intelligence has as yet reached us respecting the direction taken by these raiders. No extraordinary movement indicative of a hostile attack has been observed so far in the direction of the two populous villages immediately opposite, so that they must have either marched straight on Janina, or have turned to the left, making for the mountains of Chimara, which last I take to have been their more probable course. Not a man of them remained behind at Santi Quaranta, as late as the afternoon of the 25th instant.

4. On the night of the 25th to 26th numbers of women and children were observed wandering along the shore between Santi Quaranta and Butrinto, and in the course of the following day were ferried across to the Corfu side by fishing-boats which happened to be plying their vocation close in shore. Particulars were not known in town before the afternoon of the 26th (Tuesday), and on being informed of the circumstance I lost no time in communicating with Commander Fitzgerald, and at my suggestion and earnest request he started yesterday morning for the opposite coast, proposing to send his boats into all the creeks where landing is possible along the coast to embark fugitives, and convoy them to a point of safety on the Corfu shore. The ship, it was agreed, would hold on her course along the coast of Chimara, as far as Avlona, with a view to obtain information respecting the state of matters in that now important quarter.

4. Although communications by telegraph from Otranto are officially interdicted with Avlona, M. de Normann, the Director of the line here, received a service message from his brother Director at Avlona, stating that the "Rapid" had arrived over night there, and I availed myself of M. de Normann's obliging offer to send a message to Commander Fitzgerald, requesting him to send me any information he might deem interesting relative to yesterday's proceedings, and I am in hourly expectation of receiving his reply.

Meanwhile a report is being circulated in town that, in the course of the day, several families of refugees had been landed on the northern point of the island by the "Rapid's" boats.

5. I yesterday returned the visit of my French colleague, referred to in my report of the 21st instant.

He read to me a letter he had just received from the Consulate of Janina, in which it was stated that no fears were entertained of a general insurrection in the province, and that the military force in Epirus and Thessaly had been latterly raised

to 46,000 men, which was reckoned a sufficient guarantee for the maintenance of public tranquillity.

M. Wiet also read to me a report, to be forwarded by to-day's mail to the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Paris, which corresponds with mine of the 25th, No. 11, in all particulars but one, namely, that the volunteers who disembarked at Santi Quaranta on the morning of Sunday last were accompanied by a captain and lieutenant of the Greek gendarmerie stationed here—a circumstance previously unknown to me—and which, when accounts are squared—as must happen at no distant date—cannot but compromise deeply the Greek Government.

6. Last night 208 refugees from the opposite coast, as referred to in a preceding paragraph, were landed here, and lodged in the empty barracks in the citadel. They consist of women and children of all ages, apparently belonging to the families of Vlach shepherds. They state, I am told, that their houses, or cabins, were burnt down by the Turks, Bashi-Bazouks no doubt, but do not complain of any more serious outrages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 197.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 9.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, March* 4, 1878.

I HAD the honour last night to announce to your Lordship by telegraph the return of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" from Avlona, with, on board, 180 helpless women and children, picked up on the opposite coast, at a point in the immediate vicinity of the scene of present hostilities, a little further inland.

I trust that this act of real humanity on the part of Commander Fitzgerald will meet with your Lordship's approval.

2. I regret to have to state that my despatch of the 28th ultimo was late for the post, as the steamer for Brindisi left an hour earlier than usual. It will hold your Lordship informed of the progress of the attempt being made by revolutionary agents from this side to stir up an insurrectionary movement in Epirus.

3. The accompanying copies of reports received this morning from Santa Maura give a somewhat sombre picture of the doings on the Acarnanian frontier.

4. My reports from Cephalonia and Zante are satisfactory, especially as regards the state of public opinion in the former island. Not a single Cephaloniot has joined the "volunteers."

5. The villages in the immediate neighbourhood of Santi Quaranta are exclusively Christian. The male inhabitants, to the number of 300, have joined the invaders. The names of these villages are Niviza, Livuscouri, San Basilio, and Riza.

For topographical details, relative distances, population, &c., I beg to refer to Colonel Leake's work on Epirus, the map attached to the first volume of which is, under present circumstances, invaluable.

6. The well-known military adventurer, Colonel, or, according to his own account, "Brigadier-General," McIvor, arrived here from Brindisi by the mail boat of the 2nd instant, direct, as he gives it to be understood, from Servia, a bird of ill omen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, March* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Greek steamship "Eptanisos," alluded to in a previous despatch, arrived here on the morning of the 27th ultimo, and landed at the Fort of St. Maura four 32-pounders (muzzle-loaders), along with other ammunition.

As the application for placing the fort in a state of defence was made by the Municipal Council, as reported in another despatch, Government decided that the

expense for mounting the guns should be borne by the Commune. A small sum was accordingly voted on Thursday last.

As the formation of the National Guard seems to be in contemplation, Government having already consented to the measure, there is no doubt that this important position will have eventually to depend on its own resources against any attack of the enemy, as the troops will, it is said, in case of war, be transferred to the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, March* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the morning of the 28th ultimo the President of the "Patriotic Committee" at this place published a telegram he had received on the previous night from the Nomarch of Acarnania, now at Carvassará, announcing that a pitched battle was fought on Monday 25th, between a band of 700 insurgents, who had recrossed the frontier and occupied a position between Demarió and Klissova (Knisova?), and 1,500 Turkish troops who had come up to dislodge them.

The telegram further added that the Turks were repulsed with a loss of 200 men, while the Greeks had 6 men killed and 6 wounded.

As this intelligence emanated from a high Greek functionary, I deemed it worthy of a special notice; and this is why I at once communicated the substance of it to you telegraphically; but no other telegrams from that quarter, or any advices from Prevesa have since reached us respecting this affair. From the appeals, however, for medicines, charpie, blankets, &c., made by the agents of the Committee on the frontier and by the Nomarch himself, as also from the fact of these appeals having been at once responded to here, I am led to conclude that, no doubt, some severe fighting in proximity to the frontier has occurred, and that the number of the wounded has been great.

Moreover, as I already had the honour of reporting to you on the 23rd ultimo, the agitators were organizing another expedition. The affair to which the Nomarch alluded may, therefore, be the result of the contemplated raid.

2. Another telegram to the President of the Committee sent by one of the delegates on the frontier, and published here on Friday last, states that the raiders occupied Radovisi on the 28th, and that the Turks having burnt several villages situated on the sides of the "Tzumerka" Range (?) women and children were leaving their homes to seek refuge in Greece.

3. On Sunday evening a report was circulated in town by the Committee that the insurgents having captured the position of Pendepigadia, a station half way between Janina and Arta, communications with the former town were cut off. But the report was emphatically contradicted by passengers who arrived here from Janina on Tuesday, stating that all was quiet at the locality named, and that communications between the two towns were still open.

4. A Turkish iron-clad touched at Prevesa on the morning of the 28th, and embarked 400 troops—Albanians I am told—and 1,000 rifles and ammunition, for Santi Quaranta, where the Greek screw-steamer "Eptanisos" is said to have landed 600 volunteers before calling here on the 27th. To replace these troops a detachment from Arta was at once sent down to Prevesa.

5. The Committee are confident that the insurrectionary movement in the direction of Santi Quaranta will bring about a diversion advantageous to the invasion of Epirus. Despite, however, these sanguine hopes, the bulk of the Epirotes are still quiet, the movement being, as far as my information goes, limited to the action of the bands engaged with the money of the Committee. The burning of villages, on the other hand, if confirmed, will likely more than ever deter the peaceable Epirotes from listening to the incitements of agitators, so long as more responsible and trustworthy champions of the national cause do not make their appearance in the field.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 198.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 217.)
Paris, March 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED at the French Foreign Office yesterday afternoon, but was unable to see M. Waddington, who was attending the funeral of M. de Billing of that office. I, however, met his Excellency in the evening, and he informed me that the Austrian Ambassador had come to him on the previous evening, and had invited the French Government to a Congress at Berlin instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden.

M. Waddington said that he had expressed himself ready to accept the invitation, provided that no questions were discussed at the Congress which did not arise naturally or directly out of the late war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 199.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 218. Most Confidential.)
Paris, March 8, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, I should state that M. Waddington told me yesterday evening, most confidentially, that he felt it could not but be a somewhat unpleasant thing for France to participate in a Congress to be held at Berlin, and that he knew there would be a great cry against it among the public as soon as it was generally known. At the same time he was ready, he said, to take the responsibility of accepting the invitation to the Congress upon himself, and to defend his action before the Chambers. He considered that, just as in the case of the participation of Germany in the Exhibition, which had now been announced, the acceptance by the French Government of Berlin as the place of meeting was one step more towards keeping the peace between Germany and France, and he assured me that to establish, not indeed intimacy, but friendly relations of a durable nature with Germany, was a policy which he was determined honestly and steadily to pursue. There must not, he continued, be a renewal of those scares which had been repeated one year after another. France required peace, and must have it, in order to execute great public works, and to carry out projected plans for public instruction, and he really was beginning to believe that Germany also wished sincerely for peace.

On my asking his Excellency what he meant by limiting the Congress to questions arising naturally or directly out of the late war, he replied that he intended merely to exclude all discussion with respect to such countries as Egypt, Syria, Tunis, or Belgium.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 200.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 221.)
Paris, March 8, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON informed me this afternoon that instructions had now been sent to the French Ambassadors to the effect that France, as he mentioned to me yesterday evening, was ready to accept a Congress at Berlin, provided that no questions were discussed which did not arise naturally or directly out of the late war.

I asked his Excellency for further explanations as to the questions which he was not prepared to discuss.

He replied that they were of this sort: any occupation or annexation of countries such as Egypt or Tunis; questions relating to Syria or to the Holy Places, and he reminded me of the dispute with reference to the latter which preceded the Crimean war. What he desired was, he continued, that guarantees should be given before the

Congress assembled that no such matters should be mooted, otherwise he should feel a difficulty about taking part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 201.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, March 9, 1878.

NOTWITHSTANDING the conclusion of peace, Montenegrins refuse to permit Turks to navigate Boyana from the mouth to the village of St. George.

No. 202.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 9, 5·10 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, March 9, 1878, 3·15 P.M.

A MINISTERIAL crisis may be expected here at any moment, but it may, perhaps, not take place for some days. It is impossible to say yet what new combination may be made, but Count Tornielli, whom I have just seen, says that he has been desired to express to myself and Representatives of other Great Powers M. Depretis' conviction that there will be no change in foreign policy, whoever may come in. French Ambassador has informed Italian Government that French Government accept Congress at Berlin, but wish discussions to be limited to questions actually arising out of the war. Conversing on this subject, Count Tornielli told him that he thought that it would be impossible to exclude discussion of financial condition of Egypt.

No. 203.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, March 9, 1878, 4·40 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 8th instant, it is understood that the question of Kotur is dealt with in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey, but Her Majesty's Government have no authentic account of what the provisions respecting it are.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 9, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government having been appealed to by the Government of Greece, I have informed M. Gennadius that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress. This decision has been communicated to Her Majesty's Representatives at the Courts of the Great Powers.

No. 205.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Représentatives at Paris, Rome, Berlin, Vienna, and St. Petersburgh.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878, 6·45 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government having been appealed to by the Government of Greece are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress; and have signified this opinion to the Greek Government.

Inform the Government to which you are accredited.

No. 206.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 178. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

Sir,

COUNT BEUST has informed me that Count Andrassy is confident that if the Congress meets at Berlin German policy will be less Russian than if the meeting should take place anywhere else, both on account of the pressure of public opinion in the German capital, and because Prince Bismarck would lay himself open there more than elsewhere to the suspicion of having undertaken to use the influence of Germany for the purpose of enforcing the pretensions of Russia. His Excellency stated that Count Andrassy was also confident that England and Austria would be able to carry out their joint programme at Berlin, and was quite willing, if it should be thought desirable, to enter into further details on the subject either through Sir H. Elliot or through any other channel. He was confirmed in his view by the circumstance that Russia had herself applied the term "preliminary" to the peace concluded with Turkey, thus, in his opinion, showing that even at St. Petersburgh it was expected that the conditions would be modified.

I replied that I should be glad if his Excellency would ask Count Andrassy to furnish him with the further details on the subject of the programme to be carried out at Berlin to which he had referred, as it was most desirable that Her Majesty's Government should be fully informed of his views with regard to the policy to be pursued in the Congress and the arguments to be used in support of it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 207.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 180.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

Sir,

I INCLOSE herewith to your Excellency copy of the reply which I have returned this day to the note delivered to me by Count Beust on the 9th instant, copy of which is inclosed in my No. 174 A of that date, containing the proposal of the Austrian Government that the Congress should meet at Berlin.

I also inclose copy of a despatch in which I have directed Her Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Paris, St. Petersburgh, and Rome to communicate the reply to the Governments to which they are accredited.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 208.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 211.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,† having reference to the wish expressed by the Greek Government to be represented at the approaching Congress, and I have to request that you will inform the Government to which you are accredited that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented at the Congress, and that they have signified this opinion to the Greek Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 209.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.‡

(No. 345.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of a letter from Count Beust and of the reply which I have returned thereto respecting the proposal that a Congress should be convened at Berlin;§ and I have to request your Excellency to communicate a copy of this reply to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 210.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.‖

(No. 347.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence, as marked in the margin,¶ relative to the wish expressed by the Greek Government to be represented at the approaching Conference.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 211.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(No. 19.) *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram of the 8th instant, and in reply I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey deals with the question of Kotur, but they are not in possession of any authentic information as to the details of the provisions relating to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

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* A similar despatch was addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, Berlin, and Vienna.

† Nos. and 6.

‡ Similar letters were addressed to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Rome, St. Petersburgh, Vienna, and Berlin.

§ Nos.

‖ A similar despatch was addressed to Mr. Wyndham.

¶ Nos. , 5, and 6.

No. 212.

The Earl of Derby to M. Gennadius.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government having considered the appeal addressed to them by the Government of Greece in the despatch communicated by you on the 4th instant, that Greece should be represented in the Congress which has been convened to meet at Berlin, are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented at the Congress, and will signify this opinion without delay to the other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

M. le Comte, *Foreign Office, March* 9, 1878.

I HAVE had the honour of laying before the Queen and Her Majesty's Government the proposal contained in your Excellency's letter of the 9th instant, that a Congress should be assembled at Berlin instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden, as previously contemplated; and I have the honour to request that your Excellency will inform your Government that Her Majesty's Government have no objection to offer to the proposed change.

They, however, consider that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress; and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 214.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 9, 1878, 6 P.M.

THE Delegations are considering the demand of the Government for a credit. Baron Calice, being asked in secret Committee whether it was intended for occupation of Bosnia, declared that Government had no such intention.

He reiterated this to me very earnestly, and said confidentially that he believed Count Andrassy to be still determined to maintain, even by arms, if necessary, the objections to formation of Sclave State which forms Article No. 7 of the points agreed upon by the British and Austrian Governments.

Although no occupation is probably intended, if the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro are brought as near together as appears to be intended by Russia, the annexation of the province to Austria will scarcely be avoided.

No. 215.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 9, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

NO foreign Prince or, I believe, a special Representative, has been hitherto announced as coming to attend funeral of the Archduke, with the exception of his nephew, Prince of Saxony.

No. 216.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 9, 1878.

FOLLOWING sent to Constantinople:—

I have this day received following figures from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu:—

"Insurrection of Turkish territory opposite suppressed. Insurgent villages devastated. Her Majesty's ship 'Rapid' stood across this morning and communicated with Turkish Naval Commander, who declared coast blockaded, and refused permission to embark destitute women and children. Please advise."

Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me unofficially to-day if the "Rapid" might bring away about fifty insurgents, some said to be wounded, from Santa Quaranta. I declined to interfere directly, but said that, as these events were passing in Turkey, I would refer the matter to your Lordship.

No. 217.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, March* 10, 1878.

INSURRECTION of Turkish territory opposite suppressed. Insurgent villages devastated. Many women and children wander about homeless and destitute.

No. 218.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March* 10, 1878.

GREEK Government have asked to be admitted to the Conference, but the German Government have replied that the Congress will be exclusively composed of the Signatory Powers of Treaty of Paris.

No. 219.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March* 10, 1878.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has notified his intention to attend Congress in person.

No. 220.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 10, 1878.

I HAVE informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that Greece is entitled to be represented at the Congress, and that they have informed the Greek Government of this opinion.

His Excellency would be personally in favour of admitting Greek Representative; but, having resigned, he cannot undertake any engagement which might embarrass his successor. He has already been in communication with Berlin and St. Petersburgh and Vienna, in consequence of appeal made to him on this subject by Greek Government. The German and Russian Governments are opposed to admission of Greece, and he believes France also. The Austrian Government undecided. He is going to telegraph to Vienna, and if the reply is favourable he will suggest to his successor to advocate admission of Greek Representative, though to advise support being given to views of Greece might entail further dismemberment of Turkey.

No. 221.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March* 10, 1878.

AT a Court held by the Emperor and Empress to-day, the Emperor said to me that apparently sufficient account had not been taken in England of the assurances he had given to me at Livadia. He regretted this and the distrust it evinced. He should deeply regret any rupture with England, with whom he had always wished to maintain friendly relations. He hoped that the Conference would offer means for satisfactory arrangement.

I replied that the importance of the questions at issue, high reputation of the statesmen who would attend the Conference, and the pacific disposition of all concerned, ought to be guarantees for the success of their labours.

No. 222.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 24. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Government of this Principality is believed to have received information from Bucharest, according to which General Ignatieff, on passing through that capital, had been entrusted with a special mission by the Emperor of Russia to the Prince of Roumania, including the offer of Widdin in the territorial exchanges proposed to that Principality.

The Servians are much concerned at this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 223.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 6, 1878.

I FIND it quite impossible to verify at Belgrade reports coming from a great distance, but those which reach me speak of a considerable Russian force (it is said more than 100,000 men), being concentrated at this moment in Roumania, and at the same time of the continuance of military preparations in Poland.

It is worth noting, on the other hand, that though we are in such close proximity to the Hungarian frontier, nothing is heard here of any preparations in Transylvania or in Galicia, two exposed provinces, and though there is evidence that the Court of Vienna is disappointed with the Bases of Peace, which is natural, as these touch her interests, this inactivity continues, showing that Count Andrassy hopes to get them amended by means of negotiations alone.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 224.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 28. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 10, 1878.

WITH regard to the reported advance of the Servians in the direction of Sienica, of which your Lordship has been informed, from Novi-Bazar, by Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, nothing is known about it here, and it is doubted by those who have the best opportunities of being informed on the subject.

Preparations are, however, continued both in Russia and here, as if some new war were shortly to be expected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W A. WHITE.

No. 225.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 10, 1878.

FROM the moment when it was known here that peace was being negotiated between Russia and Turkey, the deepest interest has been taken by the public of this small country, and intense curiosity manifested in that part of these negotiations which affect the future position of this Principality.

The language held by the partizans of the Russian alliance, during the last two years, has been such as to create and keep up the most sanguine expectations on the subject of the territorial acquisitions which Servia was to derive from her active participation in that series of consecutive attacks upon the Ottoman Empire, by means of which it was intended to destroy the existing boundaries of that Power in Europe, and to realise a new distribution of its territories.

I am assured that the Russian Foreign Office has not entered upon any binding engagements towards Prince Milan on this subject, and that even as regards Bosnia His Highness has been most positively warned against the possibility of any acquisition on that side; but, as besides Bosnia, Montenegro, and the Herzegovina, the former Kingdom of Servia included likewise at one time the present Pashalicks of Nisch and Kossovo five centuries ago, strong hopes have been entertained here that these would be ceded to Servia at the next Treaty of Peace, as containing a large Servian-speaking population, instead of being incorporated with Bulgaria, as was projected at the Conference at Constantinople, at a time when the present plan of partition was still in abeyance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 226.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 1, 1878.

I HAVE reason to believe that, should a Conference of the Great Powers be held to consider the final arrangements between Russia and Turkey, it is the intention of this Government to send M. Ristisch to attend it, and make representations to the assembled Representatives on behalf of Servia.

From the course followed, however, by Russia up to this moment in conducting the negotiations for peace, that Power does not appear to give any encouragement to Prince Milan to come forward as a party stipulating anything for himself, and it is therefore naturally supposed that Prince Gortchakow will be as little disposed to admit the Envoys of either of the Danubian Principalities to a voice in the final determinations of the Conference as any other Foreign Minister is likely to be.

Up to this moment the Russian Government has shown itself determined not to reveal to the Prince or his Ministers anything concerning its real intentions on the extent of territory which is to be added to this Principality, and nothing more is known here than what has appeared in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 227.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 35. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March* 5, 1878.

IN an interview I had this morning with the Prince of Servia on his return from Nish His Highness naturally alluded to recent events and to the prospects of his country.

He expressed himself highly satisfied with the results of the last war, and

evidently attaches a great importance, possibly too much so, to the advantages to be derived by his country from a recognition of independence, and he is of opinion that the sacrifices of the last war will receive ample compensation by the acquisition of a new territory.

His Highness assured me, however, that he was not in possession of the precise terms signed on the 3rd instant at San Stefano between Russia and the Porte, but expected to receive in the course of the day full particulars as regards the stipulations affecting Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 228.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 36. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, March 5, 1878.*

SOME indications of momentary disappointment having been apparent at Belgrade owing to the continuance of uncertainty as to the territorial acquisitions secured by Russia from Turkey for Servia, these have led some journalists to the hasty conclusion that Russian influence was on the wane here, and this inference may have been warranted to some extent by the intemperate language held by a few discontented persons in this city.

It would be quite a mistake, however, if too much reliance were to be placed, especially by Austrian statesmen, on any transitory anti-Russian feeling amongst Servians.

Prince Milan, who is known to have been chafing for a long time under the restraint which the Constitution, enacted during his minority, imposes upon him, will now probably avail himself of the position which he has attained by means of Russian help to take credit for the results of his successful policy and to modify that Constitution under the sanction of Russian sympathizers, and with the support of the numerous partizans of that Power scattered throughout his dominions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 229.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 6. Consular.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, March 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a Report received from Mr Vice-Consul Cooper on the town and defences of Novi-Bazar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Sir, *Mitrovica, February 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward a brief account of the town and defences of Novi-Bazar.

The retention of Novi-Bazar is of great importance to Turkey as long as it is necessary to maintain communications with Bosnia; and as part of the line Novi-Bazar, Sjinica, Nova Varos, Visegrad, it permits any junction of Servian and Montenegrin forces.

The town is situated on low ground at the junction of the Raska and Irnava, small streams fordable anywhere near Novi-Bazar, but subject to floods and then spreading over wide shingle beds. They are crossed at several points by wooden bridges.

The Moslem quarter is between the streams; the Bazaar and Jew and Christian quarters are on the left bank of the Raska.

The principal buildings are the old castle, with four stone bastions at the corners, whence guns could command the town, now used as a store; the Mosque of Sultan Mahmoud, and a Greek church. Outside the town, on the Raska road, there is a large barrack built in the usual manner round a quadrangle. At present part is converted into an hospital, with 120 beds for men and four for officers.

The town has a population of some 15,000, of whom only 500 are Orthodox and 150 Jews, the remainder being Moslem.

A Kaimakam is the Civil Governor, though the Mutessarif, whose seat of Government is at Sjenica, spends a good deal of time at Novi-Bazar.

There is a post and telegraph office, but though the international line from Salonica to Gradiska in Austria passes through the town, messages are only received in Turkish.

The high road from Bosna-Serai to Mitrovica passes through Novi-Bazar, and there is a track passable for carts to Raska in Servia (twelve miles).

Novi-Bazar is surrounded by hills, and on these are placed the detached works for the defence of the town.

There are four principal redoubts armed with artillery and supported by four smaller ones for artillery.

Of the large redoubts, three are on the left bank of the Raska, one on the right. They are one to two miles distant from the town and one another.

The smaller redoubts for infantry are nearer the town; two above and to the west of the hospital, one to the south of Varakover, and one to the west of Isbice.

The larger ones are—

1. Kilissa Tabia, on high ground above Petrova church, at the junction of the Degevo and Raska, mounting four pieces of artillery, and commanding the Degevo and Raska valleys.

2. Eski Kilissa Tabia, on hill above the Degevo valley, built round the ruins of church at Giurgevo Stupore. The work, from its commanding position, is the key to the defences on the north-west, and mounts six guns, with one mortar.

3. Yolduz Tabia, on hill south of Rodic, and sweeping the valley running up from the Raska towards Giurgevo Stupore, it can bring fire to bear on the high road from Sjenica, in the Raska valley. It is armed with six guns.

4. Rogosno Tabia, immediately to the west of Mokrice, on hill commanding the Isbicka and Raska valleys, a distant fire could also be brought on the Mitrovica road, where it descends, about two miles from Han Brdaoi. Seven guns and one mortar are its armament. This work consists of two parts; an open kind of hornwork having been recently added; the parapet, facing north-east, is protected by a deep ditch.

The twenty-five pieces of ordnance are of every description. Amongst them are two 6-pounder Krupp, two steel rifled muzzle-loaders, 3½ in. calibre, a few bronze rifled muzzle-loaders, the rest old bronze field-guns and howitzers. They are all, except the mortars, mounted on travelling carriages, and the limbers are in most cases alongside. The platforms are of wood, and the guns fire either *en barbette* or through embrasures. There is no bomb-proof accommodation, the traverses are few and slight. There are no magazines, except in Eski Kilissa Tabia, where an arch has been temporarily built up, and forms a very indifferent magazine. The parapets are slight, earth taken from ditch, command about 4½ ft., and revetted with hurdles or stones.

The ammunition kept in limbers or in boxes covered with old tents.

Water supply deficient in all the works, being carried from villages or streams.

Country swelling and open, all wood having long ago been removed for fuel.

The mixture of ordnance would be a grave defect in event of attack, no two pieces in any work being of similar calibre.

The garrisons of regular infantry and garrison artillery, under the command of subalterns of artillery, are lodged in tents within the works. A captain of artillery superintending the whole four redoubts.

Outposts are furnished by Mustafiz, stationed in small parties of six to ten men, in commanding positions along the Kuti Planina on the north-west, and along the spurs of the Birh Plain overlooking the Raska on the east. These posts are changed weekly; on the Kuti they occupy ground which at the outset of hostilities was seized by the Servians, but who withdrew before superior numbers.

The great fault with the outpost system appears to be that there is a total want

of patrolling or communication either to flank or rear. The tents, instead of being placed under cover, are in the most exposed positions, and on the ground intended to be held.

The four main redoubts are well placed, but without a large supporting force they are liable to be attacked separately, and the capture of Eski Kilissa Tabia would cause the fall of Kilissa and Yolduz Tabias.

The command of Novi-Bazar, with its garrison of one company garrison artillery, two battalions regular infantry, 2,500 Mustahfiz, and 300 Bashi-Bazouks (horse), is in the hands of a Kaimakam.

A garrison of two battalions regular infantry holds a position near Dugapollan (distant about twenty miles), covering Novi-Bazar from the west, and keeping the communications open with Sjenica.

The road to Mitrovica (thirty-five miles), is guarded by a battalion quartered in the four redoubts, viz., 1, on the high ground near Rogosno Han; 2, part 1469; 3, Kudino; and 4, Han Kadinee; but the occupation of the hill near Lepuci, on the 6th February, since the armistice, threatens the communications should operations be renewed.

The places mentioned will be found on the Austrian staff map. Scale $\frac{1}{300000}$, published in 1876.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 230.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 7. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, February 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch, Political, No. 6, of the 8th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the following day I called on the Governor-General, Mazhar Pasha, and brought to his notice the violent article against Servia which had appeared in the "Bosna." His Excellency seemed extremely annoyed about it, and assured me that he was not till then aware that any such article had been published. He said that with his multifarious duties it was quite impossible for him to supervise and control all that was published in the "Bosna," and that the duty, consequently, devolved on the "Mektoubgee," or Chief Secretary of the vilayet, Tevfik Bey, a high and responsible official, and who was, in fact, the writer of the article in question. His Excellency, in my presence, administered a severe reprimand to the editor of the paper, Shemmadin Bey, and gave immediate orders to stop the further circulation of the number containing the compromising article. It had, unfortunately, been already distributed in the town of Serajevo, but its expedition to the country districts was arrested, and instructions were also telegraphed to the post-office at Constantinople to withhold its delivery on the arrival of the Turkish courier from Bosnia.

I would here remark that Mazhar Pasha complains most bitterly of the conduct of the "Mektoubgee," Tevfik Bey. Not only does he lead a most disorderly life, one that is derogatory to his official position, but his Excellency also describes him as an intriguing and mischief-making *employé*.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 231.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, February 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper reports to me from Novi-Bazar that all is quiet in that neighbourhood and on the Montenegrin frontier. Hafiz Pasha, with the main body of his troops, is at Prishtina; and Mustafa Pasha, second in command, has advanced from Dugopoljeze to Mitrovica,

but there is still a considerable force, composed chiefly of Albanian Mustahfiz, at Novi-Bazar. There are also strong detachments at Kurshumli and Sjenica, a battalion at Kolasin, and another at Plevlje (Taslidza).

The Turks do not consider it necessary, Mr. Cooper states, to keep many troops in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, because they have been informed, unofficially, that Austria will not allow Servia to make any attack west of Mitrovica.

As regards the advance of the Servians in the neighbourhood of Sjenica, reported in my despatch, Political, No. 6, of the 8th instant, Mr. Cooper states that when news was received of the conclusion of an armistice between Turkey and Russia, the Turkish outposts in exposed positions near Sjenica were withdrawn nearer to the town, and that the positions were then occupied by the Servians; and that these latter, who on the cessation of hostilities were three hours' distance from Sjenica, are thus now not more than half-an-hour.

On the 11th instant I received a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to the effect that the Porte had informed its authorities in the Vilayet of Kossovo that Vice-Consul Cooper would visit the district of Novi-Bazar in his official capacity, and I have instructed him to remain for the present in that district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 232.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 25, 1878.*

THE newspapers have published a telegram from St. Petersburgh, suggesting that the presence of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs at the proposed Congress might be facilitated if Berlin were to be chosen for its place of meeting.

I am informed that nothing whatever is known here of any such suggestion having been or being likely to be made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 233.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11,)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

THE Austrian Government have heard nothing in reference to the suspected offensive and defensive Treaty between Russia and Turkey, directed especially against Great Britain and Austria, the existence of which Mr. Layard states to be believed in well informed quarters.

It is not, however, difficult to perceive that the Austrian Government is far from being at ease upon the subject, and is daily becoming more aware that Turkey by her complete overthrow and annihilation as an independent Power in Europe is likely to become a mere vassal to Russia.

This result, so fatal to the vital interests of Austria, was so obvious from the first outbreak of hostilities, that very general indignation is felt and freely expressed against the Government for not having adopted in time the measures which would have prevented a state of things for which it is not easy now to find a remedy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 234.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY tells me, that although the day upon which the Delegations are to meet is not absolutely fixed, it will be about the 7th proximo.

His Excellency has spoken to some of the Members of his intention to ask to be entrusted with special authority to make the financial arrangements which circumstances may render necessary, and is well satisfied with the disposition they have shown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 235.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 158. Secret.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

LORD ODO RUSSELL, by his secret telegram to your Lordship of yesterday, reported Prince Bismarck's belief that the private correspondence of the three Emperors was certain to lead to improved relations between Austria and Russia.

Just before being made acquainted with Lord Odo Russell's telegram, I had been making inquiry into the subject of the private correspondence of the Emperor of Austria with the Czar, and had received the most positive assurance that it is of very rare occurrence.

His Majesty, I was told, when he does write to the Emperor of Russia on political matters considers himself bound, as a Constitutional Sovereign, to make his Minister fully acquainted with the nature of his communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 236.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 161. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 26, 1878.*

I LEARN from the Turkish Ambassador that Count Andrassy, in a conversation with him this morning, insisted strongly that the Porte ought not to subscribe to ruinous Conditions of Peace, which would be fatal to the Empire, and the acceptance of which would make it difficult for other Governments to be of any use.

To the Ambassador's remark that no alternative remained for his Government but to accept such conditions as Russia chose to impose, as a refusal would be followed by the occupation of Constantinople by the enemy, Count Andrassy replied, according to Essaad Bey, that he was satisfied that the Russians would not enter the capital.

Essaad Bey repeated that his Government were left without a choice, unless they had some prospect of being supported in a resistance to extreme demands on the part of Russia; but no such expectation had been held out to them by the Austrian Government.

I am not aware of the grounds upon which Count Andrassy can disbelieve the determination of the Russians to enter Constantinople, if their demands are rejected by the Porte, everything appearing to me to point to the opposite conclusion.

Count Andrassy once dropped words to me implying that the Turks ought to be encouraged to refuse exorbitant demands, and to resist to the last; but the British and Austrian Governments having acted from the commencement of the war on the principle they had proclaimed of not interfering in it for the sake of Turkey, the Porte cannot be expected to expose their capital and country further for the sake of the British and Austrian interests that are now endangered, unless they are told both that we are resolved to stand by them, and that we are still in a position to do so efficaciously.

Count Andrassy gave no such assurance to the Turkish Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 237.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 27, 1878.*

THE Vienna newspapers have been publishing accounts of large concentrations of Russian troops upon the Transylvanian frontier, which had become so menacing that bodies of Honveds had been moved towards the points threatened.

According to the information of the Austrian Government, there is no truth in either statement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 238.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 182. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 5, 1878.*

I FOUND Count Andrassy this morning very confident of the preservation of peace, if the British and Austrian Governments held firmly together, and to the understanding they had come to.

He would obtain his vote of credit from the Delegations without difficulty, and he would be able, if necessary, to act upon it to some extent without waiting till the Austrian and Hungarian Chambers had voted the means of raising the money, which was the only point with which they have to deal, as they are not competent to annul or modify the decision of the Delegations.

If, for instance, a large purchase of horses was required for the mobilization of the army, it could be effected by means of bills, which would fall due after the two Chambers had voted the means of meeting them.

If England and Austria were seen to be in earnest and determined to stand together, Count Andrassy was convinced that Russia, who had not an ally to look to, would not resist their representations.

His Excellency expects that an early decision may be come to respecting the meeting of the Conference, owing to fresh remonstrances which he understands to have been made at St. Petersburgh from Berlin, against the continual delay in fixing a time for its assembling, and in reply to an inquiry that I put to him respecting the truth of a report that Berlin was now likely to be selected as the place of meeting, Count Andrassy answered that he was inclined to think that the Conference would be best held there, as it would facilitate the attendance of some of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

His tone is entirely changed from what it was when, after proposing that a Conference should be held at Vienna, he declared that if this capital was objected to, he would never consent to substitute any other large capital for it.

I informed your Lordship that, when he found that neither Prince Gortchakow nor other Ministers proposed to attend a Conference at Baden-Baden, Count Andrassy did not much like the prospect of being the only Cabinet Minister attending it, and it is possibly this consideration which has induced him to waive all objection to Berlin as the place of meeting, which he certainly would not have done a fortnight ago.

I endeavoured in vain to learn from Count Andrassy what proposals he intended to advance at the Conference with regard to the future constitution of Bulgaria and the European provinces of Turkey, and my belief is that he has formed no very definite plan in his own mind.

He said that till the conditions of the peace between Russia and Turkey were before us, it would not be possible to form any project of what should be done, for our business would be to examine and criticise the Russian proposals, which would certainly not be such as to be accepted by us as capable of application.

Count Andrassy, however, assented to my remark that it would not be sufficient for us to find fault with the Russian proposals without being able to suggest anything else, and that it was therefore indispensable for our two Governments to be prepared beforehand in regard to the manner in which the reorganisation of the Turkish provinces was to be carried out.

His Excellency observed that, though we certainly ought to exchange views, and concert upon the measures we were prepared to support, the subject would require much consideration, but his language was altogether so vague that it is impossible for me to convey to your Lordship any clear statement of his views, which I understood to be that for at least the southern part of Bulgaria no scheme of Government should be admitted which was not equally applicable to the other Christian provinces of Turkey, and that these schemes should be elaborated in Conference.

Count Andrassy said that, according to Count Zichy's reports, the Turks considerd that the conditions imposed upon them would render it impossible for the Porte efficiently to carry on the administration of the western provinces, which were to be separated from Constantinople by an intervening tributary principality; and as there might be great truth in this anticipation, much care would be necessary in dealing with those provinces, so as to secure to them advantages equal to those that are to be obtained by the Bulgarian districts.

I said that the very evident object of Russia was to isolate Constantinople from the Greek provinces, by giving the new Bulgarian State an extension to the south and west for which there was really no justification; and with a view both to the interests of the majority of the inhabitants and to the maintenance of what remains of the Turkish Empire in Europe, it seemed to me that the efforts of the British and Austrian Government should be directed to obtaining great modifications of the boundaries which Russia is understood to demand for the tributary State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 239.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 181.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship having asked whether I could suggest any scheme for the administration of the Turkish provinces likely to find favour from the other Powers in Conference, I requested by telegraph that I might be informed whether the project to be proposed was for the administration of a tributary Bulgarian principality, or for the general reorganization of the Turkish European provinces.

If a tributary principality is formed of the extent understood to be intended by Russia, any continued maintenance of the remains of the Turkish Empire in Europe must, in my opinion, be looked upon as hopeless, and the seeds will be sown of much future difficulty at no distant period.

Kiepert's ethnographical map, upon which the proposals of the Conference of Constantinople for creating two Bulgarian provinces with special privileges were founded, was always known to be an untrustworthy authority, with a strong Slav bias, but the new Bulgaria as now proposed by Russia would include important districts which, even according to Kiepert, are almost entirely Greek.

The Russian Government have at all times, and, it must be admitted, with perfect frankness, declared that they would not tolerate a great Hellenic extension, and consistently with that avowed policy, they are now endeavouring effectually to stifle the Greek element, and to open the road to still further Slav encroachment.

The new Bulgarian principality may be called vassal and tributary to the Sultan, but it will be dependent upon the Czar, and ready to assist him when the time appears to be come for the establishment of more complete Russian domination on the Bosphorus.

Nobody ever supposed that Russia in waging this war on Turkey intended at present actually to seize Constantinople for herself, or to do more than make a step to facilitate that object hereafter, but the apathy of Europe has allowed that step to be a greater one than was foreseen even by those who believed that it would be easier to prevent her from making the first advance than to stop her after a victorious career; and unless we are prepared to acquiesce in a state of things which will compromise our own admitted interests, no effort should now be spared to ensure the limitation of the new Bulgarian principality to its proper geographical boundary of the Balkans, if the formation of such a State can be no longer averted.

It requires no demonstration to prove that, with the fortresses on the Danube razed, and an autonomous principality under Russian influence extending within a

few miles of Constantinople, that capital will lie at the mercy of its northern neighbour whenever circumstances may seem favourable for striking the final blow.

In resisting the creation of a Bulgaria extending far south of the Balkans, the Powers would have the sympathy of the majority of the populations of very many of the districts, and the task of deciding upon an organization for them with security against oppression, would be a comparatively easy one.

I have informed Count Andrassy of my personal opinion in favour of a stand being made against the creation of the extended new principality, but not being acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject, I have not ventured to press it upon him.

His Excellency still feels inclined to adhere to the opinion, with which your Lordship had been made acquainted by Sir Andrew Buchanan, that there might be less inconvenience in the creation of an absolutely independent Bulgaria of moderate extent, than in the formation of an autonomous principality vassal to the Sultan.

He considers that the former would be to a less degree than the latter subject to foreign influence and intrigue, and more likely to confine itself to domestic interests.

There may be some truth in his arguments, but I cannot share his opinion.

Neither alternative is a satisfactory one; but there is no reason why in an autonomic vassal State, as was the case till a few years ago in Servia, the right of garrison of some important places should not be left to the Porte.

I can see no reason to suppose that an independent Bulgaria would be likely to be satisfied with the limits assigned to it, or that it would not second the intrigues which would be certainly carried on from Russia to lead to its extension, and though the questions relating to tribute and mutual relations which are apt to arise between suzerain and vassal states would be avoided, others of a not less serious nature would probably occur.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 240.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 185. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, March 5, 1878.

My Lord,

AT a ball at Prince Hohenlohe's the night before last I was able to have a few minutes' conversation with the Emperor.

His Majesty alluded to the mystery which had been made by Russia in the negotiations with Turkey; for, although he had heard of the signature of the Peace, he was still in absolute ignorance of all its conditions.

His Majesty said that some of the first demands of Russia appeared to have been modified, but he added, with considerable emphasis, that he could not understand that a great Power like Russia could consider it to be for her credit or advantage to put into a Treaty with Turkey conditions which she will infallibly have to abandon.

I had no opportunity of getting any explanation from the Emperor of the particular points to which he referred, but his manner and language were certainly calculated to produce the impression that he believed the Treaty would be found to contain provisions which he would not be inclined to admit.

Upon my allusion to the detriment that would be caused to the Greek and other Christian populations by the extension proposed to be given to the new Bulgarian principality, which, by extending from the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmora and the Ægean, would cut them in two, and fatally compromise their future development, His Majesty observed that it was precisely by advocating the cause of the Christians in general that the designs of Russia, who worked for the Slavs alone, were to be met and combated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 241.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 186.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March 5*, 1878.

I GATHER from Count Andrassy's language, that he is not likely now to make a difficulty about an outlet to the sea being given to Montenegro, against which, when the Porte was ready to give it a year ago, so much objection was raised by the Austrian and Italian Governments.

Baron Orczy informed me that the Montenegrin Senator Petrovich, who came here a short time ago, was sent to bespeak the general goodwill of the Austrian Government towards the Principality, and I imagine that the principal end of his mission was to facilitate the arrangement of the question of a port.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 187. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March 8*, 1878.

ALTHOUGH the Austrian Government strenuously deny that in asking for a credit of 60,000,000 florins they have in view an occupation of Bosnia, the belief that this is their ultimate intention is daily becoming stronger and more general, while those who hoped that a determined stand would be made to uphold the interests of the Empire are fast losing confidence in Count Andrassy, whose unpopularity is consequently very great.

I cannot myself believe that Count Andrassy has formed any distinct project for the occupation of Bosnia; but his frequent allusions to the possibility of such a measure if some check were not found for the advance of Russian influence on the Danube must not be forgotten. The caution now shown by his Excellency in expressing an opinion before the terms of the Peace between Russia and Turkey are known is not calculated to inspire much confidence, and renders it difficult to form an opinion upon the course he is likely to adopt.

I believe, however, that he will be found willing to assent to much in the Russian proposals which, from his language three months ago, he seemed resolved not to tolerate.

An attempt will no doubt be made to conciliate and flatter public opinion in this country by showing how much Russia has been induced to modify the original conditions she meant to impose upon Turkey by the knowledge that they could only be persisted in at the cost of a rupture between the two Empires, and if still further modifications can be obtained in Conference it will be pretended that Austria has sufficiently asserted herself and maintained her interests.

It is certainly not yet clear to me that Count Andrassy is now prepared to resist the formation of the Slav State south of the Danube with the same energy as he formerly professed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 243.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 176. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, March 2*, 1878.

I HAD a conversation yesterday with M. Depretis, in the course of which his Excellency spoke with a good deal of impatience respecting the continued delay of Russia in making known her intentions with regard to the meeting of the Conference, the sort of defiant mistery which was observed in regard to the Conditions of Peace

which Russia is endeavouring to enforce on the Porte, and the postponement from day to day of the signature of peace.

M. Depretis observed that it looked to him very much as if the principal object of Russia at the present moment was, as it had recently been, to gain time. His Excellency went back to the time when Her Majesty's Government had made the first overture at St. Petersburgh on the part of Turkey, and recapitulated the history of the dilatory proceedings of the Russian Government since that time. In reply to your Lordship's first appeal, M. Depretis observed that Prince Gortchakow had replied, that in order to ascertain the terms on which a cessation of hostilities could be obtained, the Turks must apply to the Russian head-quarters; this application being made, the Turkish Government was informed that there could be no armistice till the Bases of Peace were agreed to; on enquiry what the basis were, and upon which Europe had been informed the Russian Commander-in-chief had received instructions, the Turks were informed reference would be made to St. Petersburgh; when further inquiries were made at St. Petersburgh it seemed that the instructions had been sent, but sent by messenger instead of by telegraph. The Russian armies were advancing, however, all this time, and in fact their march had never stopped until they got possession of the lines of Constantinople, and found themselves, as they now are, actually within a very short distance of the town. And the delay which was now occurring in the signature of the peace appeared, M. Depretis said, to him very much as if the object of Russia was to keep things in suspense until she should have still further strengthened her military position.

How long, his Excellency inquired, was Europe to be kept waiting ("la bouche béante"), while all this uncertainty was hanging over its most vital interests. He certainly thought it behoved the Powers who had common interests to endeavour to come to some understanding as to the course which was to be taken in the event of the Conference not taking place?

His Excellency said he was glad to see military preparations were being made in England; every Power was bound to do the same. The Italian Government, he said, intended to apply for an additional credit for the Budget of the War Department. If voted it would help to get the army on a somewhat better footing, and to do a little for the frontier fortifications.

I believe the sum which is to be applied for is 40,000,000 lire; but, in the course of his remarks, M. Depretis said that it would require 100,000,000 lire to do all that was necessary in the way of fortifications and other military preparations.

I took this opportunity of alluding to Italy's position towards Germany. I said that I, of course, understood the value which the Italian Government must attach to the friendship of Germany, but at the same time I could not bring myself to see that Italy would run any risk from Germany even if, in allying herself with England and Austria against Russia, she took a line which was not approved by the German Government. Germany, I said, would certainly never attack Italy, for it was her interest that Italy should be strong, and besides this, in the event, so very improbable at the present time, of France being ever inclined to attack Italy, Germany would be certain, no matter what line the Italian Government took now, to come to the assistance of Italy for the simple reason that in defending Italian interests in Italy, Germany would be defending her own.

Consequently I argued if England and Austria were to go to war with Russia for their common interests, Italy would risk nothing in joining the alliance.

M. Depretis did not dispute this reasoning. He even replied, in a way which almost made me think whether he had not grounds for believing that his hands were free as far as Germany is concerned. His Excellency told me, at all events, as he had indeed done on a previous occasion, that the German Government was perfectly aware that Italy had interests to defend in the East which she could not neglect; but it was evident, from some observations which M. Depretis then made, that he is still uneasy about the policy of Austria, which, he said, continued for him a perfect mystery.

As I have stated in a previous despatch, the idea about Austria is that she will look to territorial annexation to her own Empire as the means of securing her own interests.

In speaking of the demand of Russia for the cession of the Turkish fleet, M. Depretis said he should look upon this event as almost of as grave a nature as a Russian occupation of Constantinople.

M. Depretis' tone throughout this conversation was such as to make me incline more than I have ever yet done to the opinion that, in the event of England and

Austria forming an alliance in defence of their common interests, Italy might be induced to join it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET

No. 244.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 26. Political. Confidential.)

Bucharest, February 22, 1878.

My Lord,

IT has been confidentially conveyed to me that the Roumanian Government is extremely desirous to be represented at the coming Conference or Congress.

The precedent of Belgium is quoted, where the latter, at the suggestion of England, was represented at the London Conference for the consolidation of the Belgian Independence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 245.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Salonica, February 27, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, copies of my despatches of the 25th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the excesses committed by some Bashi-Bazouks at Pristina, where some Christians were murdered and houses burnt, and copy of the Report of the battle fought by the insurgents and the Turkish troops near Volo, dated February 21, 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, February 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a large transport having come here, 2,300 Circassians were embarked, and left yesterday for the coasts of Asia Minor. A Turkish transport has brought here 170 men, convalescent soldiers returning to their homes.

I have received a letter from a M. Merlo, an Italian engineer, at Pristina, who relates that before the 11th instant a massacre of Christians took place in that town, and a certain railway conductor, named Costi Platopulo, under British protection, was shot by a Turk of Pristina, his head cut off, and placed between his legs.

I have to-day seen a trustworthy person who has just arrived from Pristina, and he related to me what follows:—

The Mussulman inhabitants of the town, on the arrival of 400 Bashi-Bazouks and Albanians, planned the massacre of all the Christians. Houses were sacked, the inmates killed, and the houses burnt. The Vali of Kossova, who resides at Pristina, and who had due notice of the intended massacre, ordered the Commandant of the troops to take measures to prevent it, but he would not. He and his men looked on, though they were well armed, and in superior force. At the instance of M. Merlo, the Italian engineer of the vilayet, who pressed the matter on the Vali's attention, a Commission was named to investigate and bring the murderers to justice; but the general opinion is that, unless the Porte takes measures to make a striking example,

and punish the officers and soldiers who refused to protect the Christian population, more massacres will be signalled in other parts of this country, when it is found that such acts can be perpetrated with impunity.

Some of the Mussulman inhabitants of Pristina sheltered the Christians, who thus escaped with their lives, but more than 400 are now homeless and destitute, and the public will be called upon to feed and relieve them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, February 25, 1878.

Sir,

SINCE my despatch of yesterday's date was written, I have learnt that the information which was communicated to me by a person who had just arrived from Pristina is not accurate on all points.

The outbreak was occasioned by some irregulars who attempted to lodge in a Bulgarian house by force, and, finding opposition, killed the man and his wife, and afterwards went about murdering the Christians they met in the streets. Three houses were burnt and eighteen persons murdered.

Whether the Mussulmans of the town were connected with the outbreak or not will appear when the Commission named by the Vali will have made its report.

I have the honour to inclose copy of the Report I have received from Volo of the events occurring there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 245.

M. Borrell to Acting Consul Barker.

Volo, le 21 *Février*, 1878.

Monsieur,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que dans la nuit du 17 courant quatre bataillons complets, formant un total de 3,200 soldats, avec quatre pièces de montagne, sous le commandement de Skender Pacha, se dirigeaient vers le Mont Pelion, à gauche du village Macrinitza; deux autres bataillons étaient partis de Velastino (ancienne Pheræ) pour faire leur jonction avec ceux partis de Volo.

Cette partie de Mont Pelion, connue sous le nom de "Sarakino," par où devait franchir cette armée, est la moins escarpée, mais aride et pleins de rochers.

Aux pieds de Sarakino un autre corps de soldats avec deux pièces de montagne et la cavalerie, formaient un cordon pour empêcher les insurgés de fuir de ce côté.

Les insurgés ne s'attendaient pas à être attaqués ce jour-là, et divers Chefs, avec l'élite de leur petite troupe, s'étaient dirigés du côté d'Ayah, pour enlever divers dépôts de blé appartenant au Gouvernement Turc. Il ne restait donc au village de Macrinitza que 500 combattants environ, dont la plupart des villageois du district de Volo, qui n'avaient jamais vu le feu et qui devaient faire front aux forces Turques dix fois supérieures à la leur; et encore de ces 500 les Chefs ont dû retirer 150 pour garder un passage par où ils pouvaient être pris par derrière.

L'attaque commença le 18 à l'aube; la fusillade était vive et bien nourrie de part et d'autre; les insurgés avaient occupé une position assez forte derrière les rochers; leur feu faisait des brèches dans les rangs ennemis, qui furent tenus en échec pendant plusieurs heures, malgré leur artillerie, qui ne faisait du mal qu'aux rochers. Vers midi nous voyions plusieurs colonnes Turques s'ébranler et prendre la fuite. Les insurgés les poursuivaient à l'arme blanche. Le stationnaire Turc "Rothymo" (man-of-war) ouvre alors ses batteries et fait feu, ainsi que la forteresse de la ville, contre les insurgés, pour les arrêter de poursuivre les fuyards. C'est à ce moment qu'il y eût un peu de panique dans la ville, car on a craint que les Turcs, battus, se vengeraient sur les habitants de Volo. Un corps de réserve Turc fit alors tout à coup son apparition, les fuyards s'arrêtent, se relient, et marchent de nouveau sur les insurgés, qui reculent lentement.

Vers les 5 heures du soir nous voyions les soldats occuper les hauteurs du Mont Sarakino, et le feu cessa après un combat de onze heures.

Dans cet engagement il y a eu des prodiges de valeur; mêmes les femmes accouraient pour porter aux insurgés des cartouches, et emporter les blessés. Les Turcs bivouaquèrent sur les positions conquises; les insurgés se retirèrent sur les hauteurs au-dessus de Macrinitza. Le soir même après l'engagement les divers corps d'insurgés qui étaient allés du côté d'Ayah à la recherche de provisions arrivaient de tous côtés, regrettant de ne s'être pas trouvés au combat.

Le lendemain nous nous attendions de voir la reprise des hostilités, mais au lieu de cela, Skender Pacha expédia au camp des insurgés deux négociants indigènes pour leur dire que s'ils entraient dans Macrinitza il bombarderait ce village. Ils répondirent qu'eux n'entreraient pas pourvu que les troupes Turques n'y entreraient pas non plus. Les primats de Macrinitza et du village voisin Portaria furent sommés de se rendre à son camp et faire leur soumission; ils s'empressèrent d'obéir à cet ordre, dans le seul but de préserver leurs villages de la destruction.

Skender Pasha retournera tout triomphant à Volo, emmenant avec lui les susdits primats, pour qu'ils fassent aussi leur prétendue soumission au Général-en-chef, Regeb Pacha, qui leur ordonna de retourner à leurs villages et de se garder d'y recevoir les insurgés.

Trois blessés et dix cadavres des insurgés furent transportés à Volo par les soldats Turcs.

A la demande du Métropolitain (Bishop) son Excellence Regeb Pacha lui remit les dix corps, qui furent transportés à l'Eglise Orthodoxe et enterrés avec pompe.

Les pertes des Turcs sont évaluées à environ 400 hommes en morts et blessés, parmi lesquels un Bimbashi, un Yusbashi, et quatre Moulazims; celle des Chrétiens, environ vingt-cinq morts et une trentaine de blessés.

Après le retour à Volo des troupes Turques les insurgés se sont retirés de tous les villages accessibles à être bombardés par mer. Dans quelques villages situés entre les Mont Pelion et Ossa, on se bat depuis deux jours. Regeb Pacha est parti ce soir de Volo avec toutes les troupes, mais on ne sait pas de quel côté il se dirige.

L'insurrection s'est étendue dans toute la Thessalie; on se bat de partout. A Platanos les Bachi-Bazouks ont massacré treize femmes et enfants.

Les autorités militaires demandent de Constantinople de nouveaux renforts.

Deux cuirassés Turcs, "l'Azizié" et le "Loibnan," venant de Durazzo, sont arrivés dans ce port.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) CHAS. BORRELL.

No. 246.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 10. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, March 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch marked No. 4 of the 20th ultimo, addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper from Pristina, regarding affairs in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Pristina, Kosovo, February 20, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING been informed that the Porte had notified to the authorities of the Kosovo Vilayet my visit to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, I came on here yesterday to see the Vali and Commander-in-chief, Hafiz Pasha.

From the latter I learnt that instructions had been received to trace the line of demarcation between the Imperial Ottoman and the Servian forces in the district of Pristina.

A Turkish Commissioner left here yesterday to join the Russian and Servian officers at Vranja, and begin work on Friday the 22nd instant.

In obedience to orders from Constantinople the troops are being withdrawn from Kursumlje, which will be within the territory to be occupied by the Servians.

No instructions have been received relative to the line to be observed in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, and in reply to a letter asking if the Servians had any orders as to that frontier, General Protić, Chief of the Staff, sent an answer received yesterday by Hafiz Pasha, that operations on the Drina and Novi-Bazar frontiers being considered of secondary importance, no reference had been made to those districts in the instructions from Russian head-quarters.

It is of importance, therefore, that some arrangements should be made in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, as parties of the Servians are continually advancing on Ottoman territory, and only a few days ago some Turkish telegraph employés were stopped whilst visiting the line near Nova Varos.

The Moslem inhabitants are flying from the districts occupied by the Servians between Nish and Gilan; the majority are reported moving towards Skoplje and Salonica, but on the road to Mitrovica many families were marching towards Bosnia. During the severe weather last and early this month, the fugitives suffered great privations, and the mortality amongst the children is said to be very great now from the effects of cold endured on the road.

The approach of the Servians seems to cause a regular panic amongst the Moslem populations in the country districts. The panic is due not to any recent acts of cruelty, but to exaggerated reports that have been spread as to the conduct of the Cossacks and their allies in Bulgaria.

In Pristina, where, out of a population of 10,000, there are only some 1,500 Orthodox, the panic is amongst the Christians. As far as I can learn, on Thursday, February 7, the Arnaut Bashi-Bazouks plundered and burnt some Christian houses, killing fifteen men and one woman. At the time there were no regulars in the town, and the Bashi-Bazouks had been plundering for several days. The immediate cause of the massacre was an attack on the house of a man with whom one of the Arnauts had a blood feud. The Christian and his wife resisted, shooting four and wounding seven Moslems before they fell. In the evening Hafiz Pasha and a battalion of regulars arrived, and since then order has been maintained. The Bashi-Bazouks have been sent to their homes, but no one appears to have been punished. The Vali, Riffat Pasha, was in Pristina during the massacre, but from want of troops took no measures to suppress the riot. The matter is now being investigated by a Court of Inquiry.

The numerous Circassian settlements in Kosovo Polje, coupled with the distress brought visibly to their notice by the fugitives, might cause fresh outbreaks amongst the Moslems, and the Christian inhabitants are not yet reassured.

Under these circumstances I have judged it expedient to remain here till the 26th instant, when the post from Bosna-Serai is due, and when my further movements will be conducted in accordance with orders, or as events may occur, but I shall not remain out of Bosnia longer than necessary.

The Turks feel themselves utterly beaten in the field. Assaf Pasha's loss of the battle at Vranja by allowing the Servians to occupy Gilan has completely isolated Hafiz Pasha, who, with four battalions, is in Pristina. Should peace be proclaimed there will be more than sufficient to preserve order here, whilst the withdrawal of the troops from Kursumlje will allow garrisons of regulars to be maintained at Vucitrn and Mitrovica, so that once the irregulars are back in their homes I trust Christian life and property will be safe in this neighbourhood.

I see by the papers that the Servians claim to hold the whole of the Kosovo Vilayet, it may not be needless to point out how very exaggerated such a claim is. Even with their advances since the Armistice the Servian outposts, though threatening, do not anywhere touch the celebrated Kosovo Polje.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 247.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, February 28, 1878.*

ON the 26th instant I had the honour to receive from your Lordship the following telegram:—

"February 25, 7·15 P.M. Report in newspapers of alarm and danger to Christians from Circassian refugees. Is there any truth in this?"

To which I sent the following answer:—

"Reply to your Lordship's telegram of yesterday. About 7,000 Circassian and Mussulman refugees arrived here fortnight ago, and are being sent to Damascus. I did not think circumstance worth reporting, as all was quiet.

"Last week about 1,500 refugees were landed at Acre for Nablous.

"I have not heard of any disturbances, and believe alarm imaginary."

The refugees that arrived at Beyrout were detained here for some days owing to the road to Damascus being interrupted by snow, but I believe the greater part of them have been now forwarded to Damascus.

During their stay in this town I did not hear of any disorders committed by them.

On their first arrival the Circassians offered for sale church vestments and ornaments, as well as church silver plate, which in most instances had been broken up. It was also rumoured that they had with them a number of Bulgarian Christian girls, whom they were offering for sale; but on inquiry only one was discovered, who on being taken before the authorities declared that she had voluntarily followed a Circassian named Ismail, with whom she was living, and that it was her intention to embrace Islamism. Notwithstanding this declaration, the Governor separated her from her paramour, and placed her in a private house, in order that she might reflect on the step she desired to take, and at the same time permitted the Orthodox clergy to have access to her. Although about ten days have elapsed, I have not heard of any change having taken place in her sentiments.

About ten days ago a number of wounded soldiers and Redifs, as well as about 700 irregular volunteers (Bashi-Bazouks), returning to their homes, arrived at Beyrout, but they were quickly dispersed and forwarded to their respective districts without any disturbance, though I have heard that some of the Bashi-Bazouks did attempt to commit acts of robbery after leaving the town, but not to any serious extent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

P.S.—I have just received information that 2,000 refugees were landed from an Austrian steamer at Tripoli on the 25th instant, and that their arrival has caused some alarm amongst the Christians of that place.

G. J. E.

No. 248.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 161. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 5, 1878.*

A CONCERT took place last night at Court in honour of the Crown Prince of Austria, to whom a most brilliant and cordial reception has been given in Berlin.

In the course of the evening a report was circulated that the Austrian Government had expressed a wish to hold the Conference at Berlin instead of Baden, but I was unable to ascertain whether this report had any foundation.

I cannot but hope that it is unfounded, because a Conference held under present circumstances in Berlin would be as much under Russian influences as it might be at St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 249.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 5, 1878.*

I HAVE just been confidentially informed that Prince Bismarck will not object to the proposal, said to come from Vienna, to hold the Congress in Berlin instead of Baden.

My impression, however, is that the original proposal must have come from St. Petersburgh, and not from Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 250.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatches, I now hear that the Austrian and Russian Governments have agreed that Berlin would be preferable to Baden-Baden for the meeting of the Congress, and have pressed the German Government to withdraw their former objections.

Prince Bismarck, I am told, has assented to Count Andrassy and Prince Gortchakow's wish, on condition that England and the other Powers also agree that the Congress should be held at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 251.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 170. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 6, 1878.*

I ASKED the Minister for Foreign Affairs what truth there was in the rumours afloat respecting the Conference?

Herr von Bülow, in reply, told me confidentially that both Count Andrassy and Prince Gortchakow attached great importance to being personally present, and as Prince Bismarck had declined to go himself either to Vienna or to Baden, they wished the Conference to be transferred from Baden to Berlin, so that Prince Bismarck might be present, and that they should then be able to attend it themselves.

Not liking to stand in the way of an early meeting of the Conference, Prince Bismarck was willing to assent to their wish, if all the other Powers agreed likewise to meet at Berlin.

His Excellency added that Count Münster would be instructed to consult with your Lordship on the subject as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 252.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 173. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 6, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 83, Secret, of the 16th ultimo, instructing me to ascertain whether the German Emperor had taken any steps to endeavour to improve the existing relations between the Russian and Austrian Governments, and to Sir Henry Elliot's telegram of the 26th ultimo, stating that there is no

private correspondence going on between the Austrian Emperor and the Emperor of Russia, and that the former does not write to the Czar without the knowledge of Count Andrassy, I have the honour to state that I found an opportunity at a dinner, given last night in honour of the Crown Prince of Austria, of speaking on the subject to the Emperor William himself.

His Majesty was pleased to tell me, that he had for some time past been endeavouring to improve the relations between his nephew, the Czar, and the Emperor Francis Joseph, with a view to facilitating an understanding between their Majesties in regard to Eastern affairs; but I could not gather from what the Emperor William said whether he had done so by means of private letters, or through the usual official correspondence between the three Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 253.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 175. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 7, 1878.*

I SAW the Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, who told me that the Emperor had assented to the wishes of the Russian and Austrian Governments in regard to holding the Conference at Berlin instead of Baden.

It now rested, his Excellency said, with the Austrian Government, who had issued the invitation to the Conference at Baden, to obtain the consent of the other Powers to the proposed change.

Until then the German Government would take no further action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 254.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 181. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 9, 1878.*

THE impression I gather from competent judges is, that Prince Bismarck, having accepted the presidency of the Congress of Berlin, will exert his influence to succeed in bringing about a pacific and lasting solution of the Oriental question.

As far as can be ascertained, his personal sympathies are chiefly engaged in favour of the cause of Russia and of the Christian populations in Turkey.

He has no sympathy for the Turks, and thinks their rule in Europe should be allowed to die out without further bloodshed.

He does not object to the independence of Roumania and Servia, and wishes Greece to extend her dominion over the neighbouring Greek provinces.

He thinks that Austria, instead of making the proposed extension of the new Principality of Bulgaria a *casus belli*, would do better to take possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He wishes England to obtain full satisfaction in regard to her interests, and lasting guarantees in regard to the safety and freedom of her communications with India.

These are, to the best of my knowledge, the views with which Prince Bismarck will assume the presidency of the Congress of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 255.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, March 7, 1878.*

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 4th instant (Political, No. 13), on the subject of the proceedings of the "Patriotic Committee" here for the purpose of raising an insurrection in Epirus, matters remain much in the same state.

2. The "volunteers" from hence have not been joined, according to the most reliable accounts, by more than 300 natives. They are not sufficiently strong to venture into the interior in the direction of Janina, and they don't appear to have enough strategical tact to make for the defiles opening into the mountains of Chimara, where they might defy a whole army of Turks, where they might make sure of being reinforced by a certain number of partizans from the Christian villages among the mountains, and where, at least, they would find little difficulty in procuring supplies of provisions, from the want of which they have begun to suffer. So much is this the case, that three boats laden with flour had to be sent across to them from hence a few nights ago.

3. On the early morning of the 5th instant, a Turkish iron-clad, accompanied by a gun-boat, passed up channel, anchored off Santi Quaranta, and commenced firing on the town.

The officers in command of those Turkish ships of war seem to be utterly ignorant of the duties proper to the service on which they are sent, stupid, to imbecility.

During the nights of the 5th and 6th instant, several boats, carrying "volunteers," arms and ammunition, passed within range of the guns of those vessels, landing their freights with impunity, and afterwards returned to Corfu laden with refugees!

4. A note just received from Commander Fitzgerald informs me that the iron-clad passed downwards again this morning, and that last night, from the deck of the "Rapid," two of the insurgent villages in the neighbourhood of Santi Quaranta were observed to be on fire.

5. Two Italian officers and a Greek lieutenant, well known here, came over to Corfu last night for the purpose of raising more "volunteers" among the men who have served their time in the Greek reserve, and I am assured that some 300 are prepared to cross over with them to Epirus this very night.

Recruiting goes on without the least disguise. Each "volunteer" receives 45 fr. bounty money, with arms and accoutrements. Money appears to be no consideration.

6. I had an interview with my Turkish colleague yesterday, who read to me from his letter-book copies of his correspondence, from the middle of January last, with the Turkish authorities on the coast opposite, the Pasha in command at Prevesa, the Vali of Janina, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs at Constantinople.

The Reports thus furnished respecting the preparations being made at Corfu for an armed descent on Epirus are most precise and circumstantial. In most cases they were not even acknowledged, and were never in any degree acted upon.

What has now occurred was an inevitable consequence of such criminal apathy and neglect of duty.

Conemenos Bey finds it impossible to procure a boat for love or money; to take his despatches across the Channel to the Scala of Tajades, whence there is a post to Janina, and begged hard that I would intercede with Commander Fitzgerald to lend him the aid of one of the "Rapid's" boats; but this I positively declined to do, at the same time giving him my reasons for not interfering.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 256.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 10, 1878.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 187 of yesterday, I this afternoon placed in M. Waddington's hands a copy of your

Lordship's reply to Count Beust's letter of the 7th instant, respecting a proposal that a Congress should be convened at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 257.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 225. Very Confidential.)
Paris, March 10, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON informed me, very confidentially, this afternoon that Prince Gortchakow was showing some hesitation, as he learnt from St. Petersburgh by telegraph, with respect to the guarantee required by France that the Congress should confine itself to the discussion of questions arising directly and naturally out of the recent war. But his Excellency added, that he trusted that a way would be found to settle this matter satisfactorily, especially as the other Powers evidently wished that France should be represented at the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 258.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 11.)

(No. 226.)
Paris, March 10, 1878.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, contained in your telegram of 6.45 P.M. yesterday, I have informed M. Waddington that the Government of Greece have appealed to Her Majesty's Government to be allowed to participate in the proposed Congress at Berlin, that Her Majesty's Government consider that Greece is fairly entitled to be represented there, and that they have signified that opinion to the Greek Government.

M. Waddington observed that, without speaking officially, he considered that Greece had a fair right to be admitted to plead her cause at the Congress, with respect to subjects in which she was interested, but he thought that difficulties would be raised, if it were proposed that a Greek Plenipotentiary should be regularly accredited to the Congress.

He said that Roumania, though not in the same position, would be making a similar appeal, and probably Servia too.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 259.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 11.)

Admiralty, March 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Commander Musgrave, of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," dated the 22nd February, reporting on the state of affairs at Sulina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Commander Musgrave to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Cockatrice," at Sulina, February* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that 360 Russian infantry of the 30th regiment and fifty Cossacks entered Sulina on the 12th instant, and a steam lighter armed with three 6-inch howitzers, a 15 centimetre Krupp, and two small guns arrived this morning from Sebastopol; but no attempt has yet been made, so far as I can ascertain, to clear the river of the barrage or torpedoes; in fact, the Russian flag was only hoisted here yesterday.

2. General Salatzky is still in the village of Satanoff in command of about 3,000 infantry and a battery of twelve guns, quartered in the several villages.

3. The Turkish iron-clad "Muni Zephir" arrived off the port yesterday, and is waiting to escort some Turkish gun-boats expected from Silistria as soon as the river permits of their descent. It is reported clear below Toultcha, but heavy ice still continues to come down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ARCHER MUSGRAVE.

No. 260.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 11.)

Admiralty, March 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter dated 4th instant, reporting the proceedings of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" at Avlona, the Port of Tre-Scagli, and Santi Quaranta, and the state of affairs at those places.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 260.

Commander Fitzgerald to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *"Rapid," at Corfu, March* 7, 1878.

HAVING received the following directions from Vice-Admiral G. Phipps Hornby, Commander-in-chief, viz.:—

"Whilst employed on your present service you are to send direct to the Admiralty copies or extracts of all reports made to me, when they contain intelligence of importance," I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of my last letter of proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. FITZGERALD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 260.

Commander Fitzgerald to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *"Rapid," at Corfu, March* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that in compliance with a request from Her Majesty's Consul at this town that I should again visit Avlona, I employed as before the services of M. Zamani as interpreter, and got under weigh in Her Majesty's ship under my command for that purpose on the 27th ultimo.

2. Having on the eve of my departure obtained information that there had been a disturbance and some firing near the small port of Tre Scagli, which lies at the narrowest part of the Corfu Channel on the Albanian shore, I called at the port, and found the natives in arms and considerably excited; they informed me that they had

been attacked by the Turks, their flocks carried off, and some of their number wounded, and they earnestly requested that I should carry their women and children to a place of safety. I accordingly embarked these, to the number of 55, and took them across to San Stephano, on the Corfu shore, and landed them there, and then proceeded for Avlona.

3. I arrived at Avlona on the morning of the 28th, and proceeded to the inner anchorage, and remained there until the evening of the 2nd instant, when finding all quiet, I decided upon returning to Corfu, calling at Santi Quaranta on the way.

4. Arrived at Santi Quaranta on the morning of the 3rd, found the inhabitants in arms, and was informed that a Turkish iron-clad had been into the bay two days previously, that she had fired into one of the villages, and also sunk a small vessel. As the inhabitants were expecting further hostilities, and were anxious to get their women and children into some place of safety, I embarked these to the number of 180, and conveyed them to this town, where I arrived yesterday at 2 o'clock P.M. Some of the men wanted to come also, but I refused to bring any, with the exception of the priest, village schoolmaster, and four *bond fide* wounded men, who were attended to by the Staff-Surgeon.

5. I may observe that from various reports, more or less trustworthy, which I have received, I am led to believe that Santi Quaranta is the port where arms and bands of armed men have within the last fortnight been landed by the insurgents from the Island of Corfu, for the invasion of Turkish territory.

6. The Greek flag was flying on a ruined fort on the summit of a hill at Santi Quaranta, and I was informed that the Turkish authorities had left the port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. P. FITZGERALD.

No. 261.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

My Lord, *Greek Legation, London, March* 10, 1878.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's note of yesterday informing me that Her Majesty's Government, having considered the appeal addressed to them by the Hellenic Government, are of opinion that the Kingdom of Greece is fairly entitled to be represented at the Congress which has been convened to meet at Berlin, and that they will signify this opinion without delay to the other Powers.

I have hastened to communicate the contents of that note to the Hellenic Government at Athens, who will, I feel convinced, recognize in it all the wisdom and magnanimity which has actuated Her Majesty's Government in their decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

No. 262.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 11, 1878.

(Private and Confidential.)

D'APRÈS nos nouvelles de St. Pétersbourg il paraît que le mot "désirable" n'y a pas été compris dans le sens d'une condition préjudicielle. Voici ce qu'aurait répondu le Prince Gortchakow: "Qu'il avait déjà consenti pour les points d'un intérêt Européen et qu'il ne pouvait faire plus, que cependant le Congrès pouvait décider ce qui est d'un intérêt Européen et ce qui n'en est pas."

Il n'y aurait donc point une différence essentielle entre les deux points de vue.

Quant à ce que nous regardons comme la base du Congrès votre Excellence a eu parfaitement raison de dire que cela serait l'entente qui existe entre l'Autriche et l'Angleterre. Je suis encore prêt à m'aboucher avec le Cabinet Anglais sur d'autres points, ainsi que par exemple l'aggrandissement de la Bulgarie après que j'aurais fini avec les Délégations.

Je n'ai pas l'intention de proposer au Congrès une base spéciale des négociations, mais je crois que les stipulations préliminaires devront être discutées l'une après l'autre selon leur admissibilité du point de vue de l'intérêt Européen.

No. 263.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 10, 1878.

THE Depretis Ministry has resigned yesterday. The King has sent for Signor Cairoli, who was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies the day before yesterday.

No. 264.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 10, 1878.

I HAVE conveyed the Queen's message of condolence to the Emperor, who requests me to transmit to Her Majesty the expression of his very sincere acknowledgments for this mark of her sympathy for him under the loss he has sustained.

No. 265.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 302.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 11, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY has received instructions to declare categorically that there is no truth in the rumours that have prevailed here that it is the intention of Austria to enter and take possession of Bosnia.

No. 266.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March* 11, 1878.

I COMMUNICATED yesterday morning to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's telegram as to Greece being represented at the coming Congress. His Excellency told me that he was charged to request me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of His Majesty the King for this fresh mark of good-will, and he also begged me to convey the thanks of the Greek Government to that of Her Majesty.

No. 267.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 11. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March* 11, 1878.

COUNT MÜNSTER informs Prince Bismarck that if Russia declines to admit the discussion of the whole Treaty with Turkey, Her Majesty's Government will probably decline to attend the Conference.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me, in strict confidence, that Prince Bismarck could not consent to Conference without England, and that if Her Majesty's Government should decline to be represented at the Conference, the German Government would withdraw from it also.

No. 268.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 11, 1878, 3·30 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's telegram of 9th instant, repeated to you from Athens, ask the Porte to allow Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" to remove the destitute women and children on the coast opposite Corfu.

No. 269.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 184. Most Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 11, 1878.

Sir,

THE Austrian Ambassador communicated to me to-day in strict confidence, the substance of a telegram which he had received from Count Andrassy, relative to the statement of Her Majesty's Government, that it would in their opinion be desirable to have it understood in the first place, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey shall be considered as subject to be discussed in Congress; and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty shall be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

Count Andrassy states, that according to the reports received by him from St. Petersburgh, the word "desirable" has not been taken there in the sense of laying down a condition to be agreed upon beforehand ("condition préjudicielle.")

Prince Gortchakow is said to have replied that "he had already consented as regards all points of European interest, and that he could do no more; that the Congress, however, might decide what was of European interest, and what was not."

It would not appear, therefore, says Count Andrassy, that there is an essential difference between the views of the two Governments on this point.

As to what the Austrian Government regard as the proper basis for the Congress, Count Beust is informed that he was perfectly right in saying that the understanding between England and Austria would form a basis for their action.

Count Andrassy expresses his readiness to exchange views with Her Majesty's Government on other points, such for example as the proposed enlargement of Bulgaria, as soon as he has finished with the Delegations.

Count Andrassy states that he has no intention of proposing to the Congress any special basis for the negotiations, but that he thinks the stipulations of the Preliminaries of Peace should be discussed one after another in regard their admissibility, so far as they affect European interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 270.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 349.)

Foreign Office, March 11, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's telegram of the 9th instant, which has been repeated to you by that gentleman, in which he states that Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu reports that the Turkish naval authorities have refused permission to the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" to remove the destitute women and children now wandering on the coast opposite Corfu, I have to request that you will endeavour to induce the Porte to give their consent to the embarkation on board the "Rapid" of these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* Repeated to Athens.

No. 271.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 141.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1878.

THE Italian Ambassador informed me to-day that a change of Ministry had taken place at Rome. His Excellency said he was instructed to explain that no alteration in the foreign policy or relations of Italy would result, the cause of the resignation of the late Cabinet being exclusively connected with the internal affairs of the kingdom.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 272.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 44.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 11, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 135 of the 26th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had with the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which you stated that from what you heard in Athens, and from the report which reached you from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, you feared the enrolment of irregular bands was continuing, and that such enrolment might be a source of eventual danger to the internal security of Greece, and that you suggested to his Excellency that it would be better for the Greek Government, if possible, to discourage raids into Turkey on the part of private individuals, and to await the decisions of the Great Powers, whose Representatives in the Conference would examine with calmness into the whole question at issue in the East of Europe; and I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to his Excellency on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 273.

Vice-Consul Lowe to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Berdiansk, February 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 19th instant of the following telegram from your Lordship, dated London, 18th February, 6·15 P.M.:—

"Following telegram received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, dated 18th February:—

"'Captain of Turkish ship 'Panaghia Magassiotisa' was seized here for breach of blockade; states before Prize Court that vessel put in to Berdiansk before establishment of blockade for repairs, and subsequently sailed for Constantinople with cargo of barley, with authorization of English Consul. Porte requests that inquiries may be made of that officer by telegraph as to truth of this statement; make inquiries and report by telegraph.'"

I immediately telegraphed to your Lordship the following reply:—

"Turkish ship 'Panaghia Magassiotisa,' loaded cargo wheat, Berdiansk, for Syra, October last, after laying here twelve months under repair; ship received permission load cargo from Custom House authorities, and certificate from me."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. LOWE.

No. 274.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 11, 1878.*

AT the Court yesterday the Emperor said in rather a severe tone to Prince Ghika, the Roumanian Agent: "I hope you will not abandon us now, and that Roumania will not forget all she has won by the blood we have shed."

The Emperor passed on, affording the Prince no opportunity of reply.

To the Greek Chargé d'Affaires the Emperor said: "He hoped that the agitation in Greece would calm down, and that nothing would occur to cause fresh complications."

No. 275.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 11, 1878.*

I AM privately informed, in reply to a telegram from Count Schouvaloff, in regard to submission of the whole of the Treaty to European decision, Prince Gortchakow telegraphed to him on Saturday that Russia having made concession of submitting those portions of Treaty affecting Europe, could not do more. General Ignatieff cannot arrive here before next Saturday, 16th.

No. 276.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1878.*

IN reply to my inquiry to-day, Prince Gortchakow stated that the ratifications of the Treaty would take place before the meeting of the Congress. Rezuf Pasha was the bearer of the Sultan's ratification.

In reply to a communication made by Austrian Ambassador yesterday, urging early meeting of the Congress, Prince Gortchakow has fixed the date of meeting between the 27th and 31st instant.

It is probable that General Ignatieff will accompany Prince, but it is not yet decided.

No. 277.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1878.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW, in reply to my communication, stated to-day that he could not assent to the admission of Greece as an integral part of the Congress, which could only be composed of the signatory Powers.

Greece, like other interested States, might send a delegate to be consulted or give information.

No. 278.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 12. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 12, 1878.*

GERMAN Ambassador at Vienna writes to Berlin, that he thinks that Austrian Government now seriously contemplate occupation of Bosnia.

No. 279.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 12, 1878.*

DURING the sittings of the Delegations, it is impossible to see Count Andrassy, but in reply to my renewed representation that Her Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with the programme for the Congress, Baron Calice tells me that he believes Count Andrassy to consider that the Sessions of the Delegations, which will close deliberation in a few days, must be over before he can definitely pronounce himself.

I have not been able yet to obtain an answer about the admission of a Greek Representative.

No. 280.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 303. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 12, 1878.*

HOBART PASHA will probably proceed at once to Greek waters with a squadron. He informs me that he intends to go to Athens with one ship, and will endeavour to persuade Greek Government to put a stop to proceedings of blockade-runners, which are landing men and munitions of war on the Turkish coasts and in Crete. He will act, he says, with great moderation, and has no wish to inflict injury on Greek trade or towns.

No. 281.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12, 6.15 P.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 12, 1878, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1, Minister for Foreign Affairs says all the Powers have now accepted the French Reservations except Italy, of whose assent he makes no doubt. Cabinet of Berlin considers them wise and prudent, and approves of limiting area of subjects.

With reference to conditions of Her Majesty's Government, France will accept what may be agreed to by other Powers, but will not take initiative.

No. 282.

Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, March 12, 1878.*

IN my despatch No. 12 of the 8th, I denied rumoured departure of Mahomedan deputation from Bosnia for Vienna to advocate annexation to Austria. Further inquiry leads me to believe that such deputation has actually gone from Travnik.

No. 283.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 12, 1878, 8 P.M.*

I HAVE told Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points mentioned in my letter to him of the 9th instant before they can definitively agree to go into Congress.

No. 284.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 351.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 271 of the 23rd ultimo, inclosing a copy of a Report by Mr. Dragoman Marinitch, of his interview with a deputation of Circassian Chiefs, who were desirous of presenting a petition to your Excellency, invoking the protection of Great Britain, and expressing a wish to emigrate to some British possession; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the answer which your Excellency returned to this deputation through Mr. Marinitch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY

No. 285.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 353.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 284 of the 27th ultimo, forwarding copy of a Report from Vice-Consul Brophy respecting the massacre committed by Circassians and Albanians at Roum Yenikeui, and in reply I have to express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that Nourri Agha and the others implicated in this shocking outrage will have been promptly dealt with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 286.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 216.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

THE Russian Ambassador told me this afternoon that he had received from Prince Gortchakow no message or instruction in reply to the expression of opinion on the part of Her Majesty's Government as to the conditions under which the Congress should commence its discussions. His Excellency said he presumed that the answer would be sent to the Cabinet of Vienna, as it was to that Cabinet that our communication had been addressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 287.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 185.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

THE Austrian Ambassador inquired of me this afternoon on what footing Her Majesty's Government considered that Greece should be admitted to the Congress. Were they of opinion that the Greek Representative should be a member of the Congress, with a voice in its decisions, or that he should only be received as an Agent for the purpose of placing the claims of Greece before that body?

I answered that we had purposely left the matter vague, not knowing what the feeling of the other Powers might be, and had confined ourselves to expressing an opinion that in some way the Greek Kingdom should be represented. If the other Powers were found to agree in the proposal that there should be some such representation, the exact manner and extent to which it should be admitted might be settled later.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 288.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 187.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my note to Count Beust, of which a copy was inclosed in my despatch No. 180 of the 9th instant, expressing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subjects to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers, I have told his Excellency to-day that I shall be glad to know whether I may expect a further reply than that which his Excellency gave me in the confidential communication made to me yesterday and recorded in my despatch No. 184 of that day.

I stated to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points indicated in my note of the 9th instant before they can definitively agree to go into Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 289.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

(No. 198.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day to state that his Government were prepared to agree to the admission of Greece in some manner to the Congress, leaving open the question of the manner in which that country should be represented for future discussion and settlement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 290.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you herewith, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, an extract from a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu,[a] relative to the removal from the Albanian coast, by Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," of some destitute women and children.

I am further directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, forwarding a copy of Commander Fitzgerald's report of his proceedings upon the Albanian coast; and I am to suggest, for their Lordships' consideration, whether this officer's action might not properly be approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 291.

The Earl of Derby to Count Beust.

Dear Count Beust, *Foreign Office, March* 12, 1878.

WITH reference to my letter of the 9th instant, expressing the opinion that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subjects to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received

[a] No. 197.

the assent of the Powers, I shall be glad to know whether I may expect a further reply than that which you gave me in the confidential telegram you were good enough to read to me yesterday. Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on these points before they can definitively agree to go into Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 202.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 238.)
Paris, March 12, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON informed this afternoon that all the Powers had accepted the French condition that the Congress should confine itself to the discussion of questions arising directly and naturally out of the recent war. He had not, it was true, received an official answer from Rome, owing, no doubt, to the Ministerial crisis, but he was sure of the assent of Italy. He added that the Cabinet of Berlin considered the condition wise and prudent, and approved of the area of subjects to be discussed by the Congress being limited.

With respect to the conditions laid down by Her Majesty's Government, contained in your Lordship's reply to Count Beust's letter of the 7th instant, a copy of which, as reported in my despatch No. 224 of the 10th instant, I placed that day in M. Waddington's hands, his Excellency said that France was willing to accept what might be agreed upon by the other Powers, but that she would take no initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 203.

M. Délyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 13.)

Athènes, le $\frac{14}{2}$ *Mars*, 1878.

Monsieur,

VOUS connaissez déjà par mon télégramme du $\frac{11}{23}$ courant, dont je vous fais parvenir, ci-joint, la copie, le fait regrettable de la désertion de quelques soldats appartenant aux bataillons de chasseurs stationnant près de la ligne frontière.

Quoique des renseignements ultérieurs réduisent le nombre des déserteurs à 180 seulement, le fait n'en conserve pas moins toute sa douloureuse importance. L'émotion pénible que sa nouvelle a causé au Gouvernement Royal n'a rien perdu de sa spontanéité première, et nous rechercherons certes pas dans le petit nombre de déserteurs une raison pour atténuer tout ce qu'il y a de déplorable dans cet accident.

Mais tout en ne se dissimulant point la gravité du fait, tout en ayant pris des mesures rigoureuses pour en prévenir la répétition dans l'avenir, le Gouvernement du Roi ne saurait se dissimuler non plus le motif principal qui a poussé ces soldats, originaires de l'Epire, à déserter leurs rangs pour aller s'unir avec leurs frères insurgés.

Vous connaissez déjà par mes dépêches précédentes la position difficile et précaire créée au Royaume Hellénique et à son Gouvernement par les insurrections presque simultanées qui viennent d'éclater en Thessalie, en Epire, et en Crète. Vous connaissez aussi les liens d'origine, de religion, et de parenté même, qui unissent les Hellènes libres du Royaume avec les Hellènes esclaves des provinces Grecques de la Turquie. La juste et naturelle sympathie que les souffrances de ces provinces font éprouver aux populations de la Grèce pour leurs frères revendiquant leur liberté les armes à la main, ne saurait être révoquée en doute par personne. Le contre-coup douloureux produit au milieu de nous par les atrocités sans nom, commises chaque jour sur les femmes et les enfants des Thessaliens, des Epirotes, et des Crétois, ne pourrait certes non plus être imputé à crime à tous ceux qui ne croient pas assez faire pour leurs proches et parents, que de se lamenter sur leurs destinées, et qui passent la frontière pour aller vaincre ou mourir avec eux.

Voilà, Monsieur, ce qui fait à la population du Royaume une nécessité nationale et irrésistible de porter le secours de ses bras à ceux qui combattent pour leur indépendance. Cette nécessité est trop puissante pour être combattue. Le courant, grossi chaque jour par les nouvelles de récents exploits des Guéques et des Bachi-Bozouks, est trop rapide et trop entraînant pour être efficacement contenu. Si le Gouvernement du Roi a fait jusqu'à présent et continue de faire tout son possible pour l'arrêter, les hordes indisciplinées, que la Sublime Porte a chargées de combattre l'insurrection, font de leur côté tout leur possible pour affaiblir et paralyser nos efforts. Les barbaries inqualifiables commises tout récemment à Couromera et à Voulgaréni, et dont vous trouverez ci-jointe la relation exacte et détaillée, en offrent une fois de plus la preuve éclatante.

Veuillez communiquer le contenu de la présente et de ses annexes à son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique, et l'assurer en même temps que le Gouvernement du Roi, malgré les difficultés chaque jour renaissantes de la situation, ne manquera point d'user de toute son autorité pour prévenir à l'avenir des faits regrettables pareils à celui qui font l'objet principal de la présente.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) TH. DELYANNI.

P.S.—Je reçois à l'instant même la nouvelle que tous les soldats déserteurs sont rentrés en Grèce le matin du $\frac{14}{2}$ courant, avec leur Chef Batrahkri, et ont regagné leur bataillon avant l'expiration du délai qui constituerait définitivement le crime de la désertion.

T. D.

No. 204.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 13.)

(Télégraphique.)
Athènes, le 12 Mars, 1878.

VOTRE télégramme du 9 reçu. Veuillez demander à Lord Derby une audience et présentez à son Excellence les remercîments de Sa Majesté le Roi et la gratitude du Ministère.

La décision du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine est une preuve précieuse du bienveillant intérêt de l'Angleterre envers la Grèce, qui sera ainsi admise à faire valoir dans le Congrès les vœux et les aspirations nationales.

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 12, 1878.

I HAVE received your telegram transmitting Lord Odo Russell's secret telegram of yesterday, saying that Count Münster has informed his Government that Her Majesty's Government will probably decline to attend Conference if Russia refuses to admit discussion of whole Treaty with Turkey.

For my guidance in my language to the Austrian Government it is very desirable for me to know how far Count Münster is correct in assuming that submission to the Conference of the whole Treaty is a *sine qua non* condition of the consent of Her Majesty's Government to take part in it.

No. 206.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 304.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 13, 1878.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL of Telegraphs requests me to ask your Lordship to endeavour to prevail upon Eastern Company to lay short additional cable completing the communication to the Dardanelles and Constantinople. He assured me that the Company's Agent at the Dardanelles is in communication with Ottoman Agents on the subject.

No. 297.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 62.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 13, 1878.*

I ADDRESSED a note to Prince Gortchakow this day, communicating a copy of your Lordship's reply to Count Beust, which I received last night with your despatch No. 212.

No. 298.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

PRINCE BISMARCK thinks the Congress should be composed only of the Powers who signed Treaty of Paris, but agrees with your Lordship in thinking that the interests of the Greek nation should be taken into consideration by the Congress.

No. 299.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY proposes that the Congress should meet on the 25th instant.

Prince Gortchakow agrees.

Prince Bismarck has no objection if the other Powers consent.

No. 300.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

I AM assured that the French Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has told Russian Government that the subjects his Government wish Congress not to discuss are Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Places.

No. 301.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, March 13, 1878.*

FOLLOWING received from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu this morning:—

"Distressing accounts from opposite coast of Bashi-Bazouks plundering, murdering. Seventeen villages devastated. Turkish Commander ready to answer for regular troops, but impotent to restrain brutality of irregulars. Please communicate to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople."

No. 302.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, March 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 9th instant the Persian Minister again most positively asserts that no communication whatever has passed with Russia here or elsewhere respecting Kotur, but he says that the Russian Minister here had several times stated that if Persia remained quiet and neutral, Russia, if victorious, would look to the interests of Persia in the matter of the Turco-Persian boundary question generally. No allusion had been made to Kotur, but Russia considers that to be the most serious question between Persia and Turkey, whereas Persia considers Zohab to be the principal point at issue. He again dwelt upon the urgency, in order to prevent future complications between the two Mahommedan States, of seizing the present opportunity to submit the Turco-Persian boundary question to the Congress for settlement.

No. 303.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Darmstadt, March 13, 1878.*

PRINCE ALEXANDER of Hesse Darmstadt has gone to Vienna at special request of Emperor of Austria. It is thought here that he will be entrusted with some private communication for the Emperor of Russia.

No. 304.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 13, 1878, 2·50 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government have been informed that a Turkish squadron has been ordered to Greek waters.

No. 305.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 13, 1878, 5·20 P.M.*

FOLLOWING received from Tehran:—

[Repeat Mr. Thomson's telegram of March 13.]

Request Sir A. Kemball to furnish a report at once as to how the Turco-Persian Boundary question stands, and any advice he may have to offer as to the course to be pursued.

No. 306.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 67 of the 12th instant, Her Majesty's Government desire to state that they must distinctly understand, before they can enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers, and what do not.

No. 307.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.)
(Most Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 13, 1878, 7·30 P.M.*

AS soon as the new Italian Cabinet is formed, sound the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in strict confidence, whether the Italian Government would be willing to enter into an understanding to the effect of the following Memorandum:—

"In view of the changes which the recent war and the arrangements consequent

on its termination may bring about in the balance of power hitherto maintained as to the communications between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the Governments of the countries more immediately concerned in those waters agree to consider the maintenance in that respect of their commercial and political interests in the Mediterranean and the Straits, and also any act tending to a violation of these interests as questions of general concern; and they will, from time to time, so far as practicable, come to an understanding as to the measures which may be necessary for the maintenance of these interests."

The Governments above referred to, whom Her Majesty's Government would propose to invite to join with the English and Italian in this understanding, are the French, Austrian, and Greek.

No. 308.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 199.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 177 of the 8th instant, I have to request your Excellency to inform Count Andrassy that in order to avoid any misapprehension as to the meaning of their recent declaration contained in my note to Count Beust of the 9th instant, Her Majesty's Government desire to state that they must distinctly understand before they enter into Congress that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers, and what do not.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 309.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 142. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1878.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 176 of the 2nd instant, marked "Most Confidential," reporting a conversation which you had had with M. Deprotis in regard to the delay of Russia in making known the conditions of peace, and the position in which Italy would stand towards Germany in the event of her entering into alliances with other Powers; and Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's language, as reported in this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 144. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 13, 1878.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will sound the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in strict confidence, so soon as the new Italian Cabinet is formed, whether the Italian Government would be willing to enter into an understanding to the effect of the following Memorandum:—

"In view of the changes which the recent war, and the arrangements consequent on its termination, may bring about in the balance of power hitherto maintained as to the communications between the Mediterranean and Black Seas, the Governments of the countries more immediately concerned in those waters agree to consider the maintenance in that respect of their commercial and political interests in the Mediterranean and the Straits, and also any act tending to a violation of those interests, as questions of general concern, and they will, from time to time, so far as practicable, come to an understanding as to the measures which may be necessary for the maintenance of those interests."

The Governments above referred to, whom Her Majesty's Government would propose to invite to join with the English and Italian Governments in this understanding, are those of France, Austria, and Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 311.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 25. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the labours of the Delimitation Commission have been somewhat delayed through difficulties having arisen with reference to the navigation of the Boyana, and concerning some of the positions of the Turkish and Montenegrin troops. The latter have not yet withdrawn from the villages near Podgoritza, occupied after the 31st January last, but it is still believed that everything will receive a satisfactory solution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 312.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, March* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Commission for the demarcation of the Turkish and Montenegrin military positions in North Albania assembled at Vir-Bazaar, a small Montenegrin port on the Lake of Scutari, on the 24th ultimo, and that it is constituted as follows:—

Brigadier-General Rizah Pasha, Turkish delegate.
Colonel Baron Kaulbars, Russian delegate.
Voïvoda Verbitza, Montenegrin delegate.

The first meeting for the transaction of business occurred on the 25th ultimo, when Baron Kaulbars announced that he would limit his action to intervening between his colleagues whenever a question arose upon which they could not agree. This duty he had to exercise at once, as Voïvoda Verbitza rejected the preliminary demand of Rizah Pasha that the 31st January should be accepted as the day upon which the armistice must be considered as having taken effect with regard to all military operations.

The Montenegrin delegate only gave way on this matter after a reference to Prince Nicholas at Cettigné, who directed that Baron Kaulbars' ruling in favour of the 31st should be accepted.

Since then the Commission has continued its work at Vir-Bazaar, and has as yet avoided the necessity of actual inspection of the lines of the respective forces, although some of the positions are disputed.

The Russian and Montenegrin delegates have expressed astonishment that Rizah Pasha should wish to prevent the navigation by the Montenegrins of that portion of the river where they hold the right bank, and have consequently threatened to continue to keep the stream closed against Turkish vessels. I have reason to believe that the Pasha has been instructed not to persist in his pretension.

The villages near Podgoritza which were occupied after the commencement of the armistice have not yet been evacuated by the Montenegrins, but the Turks appear satisfied with the admission that they are not properly within the Montenegrin military zone, and, no doubt, feel that it is better not to press for their possession until a decision has been come to on the subject of the increase of territory to be finally granted to Montenegro.

I have the honour to furnish herewith the copy of a despatch reporting to Mr. Layard the result of the first meeting of the Delimitation Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 312.

Consul Kirby Green to Mr. Layard.

Scutari, February 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I have ascertained that at the first meeting of the Delimitation Commission, the member for Montenegro agreed to admit that the 31st ultimo should be considered as the commencement of the Armistice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 313.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 196.)

Vienna, March 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a French *résumé* of the remarks made by Count Andrassy to the Delegations on Saturday last, of which I telegraphed to your Lordship yesterday the principal points.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 313.

Count Andrassy's Statement.

DÉLÉGATIONS.—LES DÉCLARATIONS DU COMTE ANDRASSY.—Nous donnons ci-après un aperçu aussi complet que possible de "l'exposé de la situation actuelle," fait au sein de la Commission Budgétaire des deux Délégations, par M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Le Comte Andrassy.—Je veux prévenir toute question, et vous offrir une série de déclarations indispensables. Il ne m'est pas possible de formuler aujourd'hui un programme en règle, attendu que d'un côté nous sommes à la veille du Congrès, et que d'autre part une divergence de vues, ne fût-ce que de la part d'une seule Puissance, pourrait encore au dernier moment entraver la réunion du Congrès.

En ce qui concerne les Préliminaires de Paix Russo-Turc, il est fort naturel que le vainqueur se laisse conduire par des considérations purement militaires, et le vaincu doit conséquemment s'y soumettre. Au surplus les stipulations ne sont pas définitives, et ont été fort exagérées par les correspondances. On comprend par là leur caractère alarmant.

Nous vivons après tout à l'époque nerveuse des télégraphes. L'opinion se base sur des rapports sommaires et incertains, aussi tombe-t-elle aisément d'un extrême dans l'autre. Au début du conflit, on soutenait que la Russie n'était pas de taille à se mesurer avec la Turquie et qu'elle était mal venue à se poser en grande Puissance; aujourd'hui on déclare que l'Empire du Czar menace toute l'Europe.

La Russie a déclaré à plusieurs reprises qu'elle ne tirait pas l'épée dans des vues ambitieuses et égoïstes, et qu'elle n'avait d'autre but en faisant la guerre que d'améliorer le sort des Chrétiens de Turquie. Ce but, et les succès militaires qui l'ont servi, sont hors de la question.

Quant à nous, ce que nous demandons, c'est que les intérêts de la Monarchie, comme ceux de l'Europe, ne soient pas atteints. Nous demandons que ce que suivra la guerre soit vraiment la paix, et nous ne voulons pas d'une situation portant en elle le germe de nouvelles complications. La mission du Congrès est de réaliser ces vues, et non d'opérer un déplacement de puissance.

Il y a des tâches dont on ne s'acquitte que difficilement lors même qu'on est servi par les moyens les plus puissants. Par exemple, quoi de plus difficile que de démolir la moitié d'un édifice menaçant ruine, sans exposer l'ensemble du bâtiment à un écroulement complet.

Avant de couler le bronze dans le moule qui lui est préparé, il faut d'abord le fondre à la chaleur d'un haut fourneau. Je vois bien en Orient le métal incandescent, mais nulle part mes yeux ne rencontrent le moule destiné à lui donner la forme. Si

une partie des Chrétiens obtient des réformes et une amélioration de son sort, il faut aussi que l'autre partie voie sa situation améliorée.

La Russie elle-même doit désirer de se mettre d'accord avec l'Europe, afin que ses ressources et le sang de ses enfants n'aient pas été sacrifiés pour créer un état de choses sans stabilité ni sanction.

J'espère que le Congrès réalisera une entente générale. Toutefois je ne puis faire reposer les intérêts de l'Empire uniquement sur des espérances; je ne peux pas non plus les abandonner à l'appréciation d'autres Gouvernements. Jusqu'ici je n'ai fait aucun appel au généreux dévouement du pays, j'ai ménagé les forces de la Monarchie, et je me félicite hautement d'avoir agi ainsi. Toutefois, l'heure est venue de nous prémunir pour le cas d'une impérieuse nécessité, afin de nous garder contre les faits accomplis.

Ce n'est pas un but de démonstration ou d'hostilité contre une Puissance quelconque; c'est par une simple mesure de prudence, prise en vue de sauvegarder la liberté d'action de la Monarchie. Ce que je demande ne saurait être considéré comme un vote de confiance pour le Gouvernement, ou comme un crédit voté à la sollicitation du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères actuel. Le crédit que je vous demande vous devriez l'accorder à tout Gouvernement qui, en présence de la situation actuelle, prendrait sur lui de garantir les intérêts du pays tout entier.

Le Dr. Gishra demande à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères si l'on peut s'attendre à recevoir prochainement communication des Conditions de Paix stipulées entre la Russie et la Turquie.

M. le Comte Andrassy répond qu'il n'est pas probable qu'il soit donné connaissance de ces dispositions avant la ratification de l'instrument de Paix.

Le Délégué Dr. Gross estime qu'il y aurait lieu d'inviter M. le Ministre des Finances d'Autriche à faire dès la séance prochaine un exposé de l'état des finances de l'Empire.

Le Délégué Dr. Schaup estime que le vœu exprimé par le préopinant est justifié à divers égards; toutefois, il est d'avis que la question du crédit de 60,000,000 fl. soit examinée plus en détail dans la Commission, attendue que le côté politique de cette question est de beaucoup le plus important.

Le Dr. Schaup propose ensuite que l'on fasse venir des sténographes pour la séance suivante.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères déclare que si l'on mande des sténographes, il devra observer une plus grande retenue dans ses ouvertures. Dès lors M. Schaup retira sa proposition.

Le Baron de Walterskirchen propose de faire adjoindre aux membres de la Commission, en leur accordant voix délibérative, ceux d'entre les membres de la Délégation Autrichienne qui ne font pas partie de la Commission Budgétaire.

Prennent la parole sur cette proposition les Délégués: Dr. Giskra, Comte Rechberg, Dr. R. de Demel, Dr. Sturm, Comte Kidmann, Dr. Gross, et Baron de Winterstein.

Mise aux voix, la proposition de M. le Délégué Baron de Walterskirchen est repoussée. La prochaine séance de la Commission est fixée ensuite à Lundi.

M. le Comte Andrassy a fait des déclarations identiques au sein de la Commission de la Délégation Hongroise.

Voici l'Exposé des Motifs accompagnant la demande d'un crédit de 60,000,000 fl. pour des dépenses imprévues:—

"En présence de l'état de choses, il n'est pas impossible que le Gouvernement commun, pour sauvegarder les intérêts de la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise, se voit obligé de recourir à des mesures extraordinaires.

"En ce cas, le Gouvernement commun doit être à même de faire face aux premières dépenses, et c'est pourquoi il demande l'ouverture d'un crédit jusqu'à concurrence de 60,000,000 fl.

"Cette somme n'est pas destinée à compléter, s'il y avait lieu, l'armement de nos troupes, les dépenses y relatives étant fixées dans le Budget Extraordinaire de l'Armée; il s'agit plutôt de mettre à la disposition du Gouvernement des moyens qui lui permettent de prendre à temps et sous sa responsabilité les seules mesures qui, en tirant promptement partie des avantages qu'offre l'organisation de notre armée, soient propres à préserver la Monarchie de tout danger et de toute surprise."

No. 314.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 192.)
Berlin, March 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, in obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 131 of the 9th instant, a copy of the reply which your Lordship returned to Count Beust in answer to the proposal that a Congress should be convened at Berlin, and I asked his Excellency at the same time, whether the German Government agreed with the bases laid down for the Congress in that despatch, and in the note I had addressed to his Excellency on the 30th January last, namely, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey shall be considered subject to be discussed in Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things established by Treaty shall be acknowledged as valid until it has received the consent of the Powers.

In thanking your Lordship for this communication, his Excellency replied that the German Government did not intend to depart from the neutral attitude hitherto observed, and would therefore still reserve their opinion for the present.

The German Government would wait until the Powers more directly interested were agreed amongst themselves in regard to the bases for the Conference, and when an agreement had been come to, the German Government would be ready to send out formal invitations to the Powers to meet in Berlin, in accordance with the wishes expressed to them by the Governments of Russia and of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL

No. 315.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 13, 1878.

WITH reference to admission of a Greek Plenipotentiary to the Conference, Minister for Foreign Affairs considers it undesirable to depart from his original proposal to invite only the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Paris to examine any infringement of that Treaty which the peace between Russia and Turkey may involve.

He is as solicitous as Her Majesty's Government for the interests of Greece, and recognizes its claims to have those interests cared for.

It will be competent for the Conference to decide that a Greek Representative should be admitted, and Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs will give his cordial support to proposal to that effect if it should be made in the Conference, but he is unwilling to retard the meeting by making it a preliminary condition.

No. 316.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 13, 1878.

COUNT BEUST has been instructed to communicate to your Lordship Count Andrassy's reasons for disagreeing with Her Majesty's Government in considering it necessary that the whole of the Russian Turkish Treaty should be communicated to the Conference.

M. Orczy, in reading to me the telegram to Count Beust, said that Count Andrassy thought that as Russia had declared that the Conference would decide what parts of the arrangements with Turkey should be considered of European interest, nothing more was requisite. I said to him I was not aware of Russia having made any such explicit declaration; she had said that the questions of European interest would be submitted to the Conference, but unless the whole Treaty was laid before the Powers, clauses that they might consider of European interest might never be laid before them. If, as Count Andrassy supposed, Russia intended the Conference to decide what points in the Treaty it had to discuss, it appeared evident that the whole Treaty must be laid before the Plenipotentiaries, to enable them to form an opinion.

No. 317.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 13, 1878.

M. STOURDZA has arrived here on a mission from Prince Charles of Roumania. He is particularly directed to see the leaders of the Hungarian party, and to encourage resistance to Russia, against which Power the Prince and the whole country are, he says, violently incensed.

No. 318.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, March 14, 1878.

I AM privately informed, with respect to your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant to Count Beust, that the submission of the Treaty to the Congress is considered in Berlin and at Paris to be a somewhat exaggerated demand.

No. 319.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, March 14, 1878.

GENERAL IGNATIEW arrived here to-day by special train from Odessa.

No. 319 A.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 14.)

(Télégraphique.)
Vienne, le 14 Mars, 1878.

NOUS maintenons que toutes les stipulations qui touchent aux intérêts Européens doivent être discutées au Congrès et que l'Europe en décidera.

Mais comme le Prince Gortchakow nous a déclaré que c'est le Congrès qui déciderait quels sont les Articles des Préliminaires de Paix qui touchent aux intérêts de l'Europe, et que tous les points qu'on trouverait être d'un intérêt Européen seraient soumis à ses délibérations, et ne pourraient être considérées valides que s'ils obtiennent l'assentiment de toutes les Puissances, il me semble que le but de la déclaration Anglaise, c'est-à-dire se réserver la pleine liberté d'action—un point de vue que nous partageons entièrement—se trouve par là atteint, et nous croyons que dans ces circonstances il n'est ni de l'intérêt de l'Angleterre, ni du nôtre, de soulever des difficultés par rapport à cette question.

No. 319 B.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 14.)

(Télégraphique.)
St. Pétersbourg, le 14 Mars, 1878.

TOUTES les Grandes Puissances savent déjà que le texte complet du Traité Préliminaire de Paix avec la Porte leur sera communiqué dès que les ratifications auront été échangées, ce qui ne saurait tarder. Il sera simultanément publié ici. Nous n'avons rien à cacher.

No. 319 c.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

No. 141.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1878.

THE German Ambassador informed me this afternoon that he had received a communication from Prince Bismarck, in which the Prince expressed his wish that it should be known to Her Majesty's Government that the transfer of the seat of the Conference from Baden to Berlin had not been a proposal or suggestion of his, but had been somewhat reluctantly accepted by him. He had yielded on that point to the joint request of the Austrian and Russian Governments, not choosing to incur the responsibility of bringing about a war, which might be the result if no arrangement for a Congress could be made.

Prince Bismarck had further declared that in his opinion it would be useless to hold a Congress if England kept aloof.

Count Münster added that the formal invitations would not be issued until it was understood that the preliminary difficulty which had arisen between Her Majesty's Government and that of Russia had been got over.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 320.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 201.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1878.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram from Count Andrassy respecting the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government will consent to enter Congress.*

This telegram was communicated to me to-day by the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at this Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 321.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(No. 3. Political.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 14 of March 7, reporting on the state of affairs on the coast of the mainland opposite to Corfu, and stating that your Turkish colleague, finding it impossible to send his despatches across the channel, had applied to you for assistance, which, however, you had declined to afford; and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings as reported.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 322.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 29A. Political.)
My Lord,

Trebizond, February 25, 1878.

RUMOURS have been afloat here since a few days that numbers of Armenians had been massacred by the Koords in the vicinity of Arabkir.

I find on inquiry that the only information which has reached this town on the subject is contained in a letter dated Tsimishkezek, 5th January, addressed by his family to a native merchant of that village now residing at Trebizond.

It is stated that Koords, under certain chieftains named Hodjouchagi, Terabouchagi, and Chamouchagi, plundered the village of Brekh, murdering a few (no number is given) of the resident Armenians; that they also murdered two men at Behibil,

* No. 319 A.

nine at Marousha, one of whom was a philo-Armenian Mussulman, and three women at other villages; that they plundered the village of Gemidji, the inhabitants of which, about 100 families, fled to Arabkir; and that the Koord Chief, Alikiaggo of Karabal, carried away upwards of 2,000 sheep from the villages of Otzkegh and Utchbeg.

In consequence of these serious disorders there is a panic among the Armenians, who in the present state of affairs can expect no protection from the Ottoman Government.

It has been explained to me by the same native of Tsimishkezek, that the district of that name is, together with that of Dersim, comprised in the region east between the River Euphrates and the Murad Tsaï; that there are in the former district 94 villages of from 50 to 200 houses each, with the exception of the village of Tsimishkezek, numbering 500 houses; and the total population amounts to about 35,000, one-quarter of which only is Armenian; that the Koords live in the district of Dersim, north of Tsimishkezek, and that they have at all times levied black-mail on their Armenian neighbours.

It would seem that each Koord Chief had appropriated a number of villages, from which he exacted a tax, in money or kind, called "kessim," and which amounted to about 50 piastres (9s.) a-year per house. This kind of tribute entitled the Armenians to the protection of the respective Koord Chiefs against their aggressive kinsmen.

A battalion of regulars was always stationed there before the war, to keep order.

But, according to my informant, it would seem that there have been cases in which the Armenians have had to suffer also from the Turkish officials, as well as from their own co-religionists.

Chefik Pasha, who about two years ago was Governor of Erzinghian, is said to have bestowed all the lands, 6,000 "donums" (about 12,000 acres), of Brasdik, an Armenian village of twenty houses, on a Koord Chief named Kutchuk Aga, who had put forward ancestral pretensions of ownership. This grant was made with a view to obtain through his influence recruits and taxes from his countrymen. The Armenians are now simple tenants of the property, the ownership of which they can prove by title deeds in their possession. They have submitted the affair to Constantinople, but have as yet obtained no redress.

A case has also been cited to me in which Christians bribed Koords to assist them in unlawful purposes against their co-religionists, thus encouraging the Koords in their natural evil propensities.

The present disorders are attributed to the Koord Chiefs availing themselves of the disturbed state of affairs in Turkey to revive the "kessim" tax, the levying of which had somewhat relaxed during the last ten years, and to extend it to other villages than those originally affected to each of them.

Although no special mention is made in the letter cited above, it would seem that since the breaking out of the hostilities the Koords have relaxed from the respect which they had up to that time shown towards women. The Koords of Dersim belong to a sect less dissolute in habits than that residing in the eastern districts of Koordistan.

The impunity which Koord Chiefs have enjoyed at all times has been an inducement to their extending their depredations from day to day. A few have been arrested now and then and sent to Constantinople, but they have always found the means to return to their country a few months after.

The present Kaïmakam of Dersim is a Koord, and a cousin of Alikiaggo, who carried away the 2,000 sheep mentioned above.

It is suggested that if the districts of Dersim and Tsimishkezek, the former of which is now under Erzinghian and Erzeroom, and the latter under Karpoot and Sivas, belonged to the same jurisdiction, the claims of the Armenians against the Koords might be settled without the difficulty, often amounting to an impossibility, which is now experienced in having to submit their cases to Sivas, to be referred to Erzeroum, and returned in the neighbouring district after very long delays.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 323.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 31. Political.)

Trebizond, March 1, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the absence of letters from Erzeroum, I had reported two days ago the only news which had reached us from that town through a Turkish muleteer.

Having since received letters from the English surgeons at Erzeroum, I telegraphed yesterday, as follows, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Erzeroum letters of 19th state that Turkish troops began evacuation of town on 16th, and were leaving by thousands. Russians were to enter town on Saturday."

It is furthermore mentioned in these letters that everything was very quiet, that about 12,000 Turkish soldiers had died (most from typhus) during the last four months, and that out of 36 doctors 17 had also died.

I learn to-day from another source, in which I can place reliance, that the evacuation of the town by the Turkish troops, which had begun on the 16th, had been suspended for some time in consequence of the two Commanders-in-chief having had a difference of opinion on one of the conditions.

Ismail Pasha insisted, and at last carried the point, that there should be a Turkish Civil Governor at Erzeroum during the Russian occupation.

According to all probabilities, the Russians have entered Erzeroum on Saturday last, the 23rd ultimo.

It being impossible, in consequence of the present state of the roads, to remove the war material from Erzeroum, it was to be left in that town under inventory.

The Turkish troops were marched to Erzinghian (where the head-quarters are to be established) and at Baiburt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 324.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 26. Political.)

Canea, Crete, March 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE encounters which had taken place between the Christian insurgents and the Government forces on the 24th ultimo were continued on the three following days. At the end of that time the former had succeeded in capturing a large block-house at Alikianeo, two hours to the south-west of this town. It was in a commanding position, the upper portion forming the residence of the Kaïmakam of the district, and the lower serving as barracks for troops, and it was defended by a band of eighty Albanians, who were obliged to retire for want of provisions. The captors immediately set fire to it, lest it should come into the hands of the enemy again.

During these days other bands of insurgents were blockading the Christian Governor of Sphakia, Nikolaki Pasha, in his head-quarters at Vamos in Apokorona, four hours to the south-east of Canea. He has two battalions of Redif, amounting to 1,400 men, and a small force of zaptiehs, to protect the place, which has no sort of natural strength. There is no danger of its being taken by assault, however, but as it is known that the troops have only food enough for a very few days, and all the roads are occupied by the Christians, the latter hope to reduce the place by starvation. There has been no fighting since the 27th ultimo, and hopes are entertained of inducing the Christians to agree to a suspension of arms. It is supposed that the Government losses in killed and wounded in the several encounters amount to about fifty in all, and the losses of the Christians are not likely to exceed that number. While the troops engaged in the skirmishes at Vamos were chiefly regulars, those who fought at Alikianeo were all irregulars, composed of Albanian zaptiehs and the newly-armed volunteers. Costaki Pasha, as I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 23, did what he could to oppose the arming of these men; but his better judgment was overborne by the zeal of the Mussulman public, who insisted on arms being served out to them, so that, counting the 600 armed by Samih Pasha less than a month ago, there must now be quite 2,000 men carrying the Peabody-Martini rifle. The town and all the roads leading to it are occupied by these men, and Christian

peasants no longer venture near the town. Perfect order, however, continues to prevail in the town itself, nor are the Christian inhabitants at all molested.

The unexpected outbreak of hostilities and their sudden cessation have given an artificial character to the movement, which only confirms the universal belief that it was got up to order, and in opposition to the general will of the people, which had been authoritatively expressed by their representatives in the Memorial addressed to the Consular Body only a few days before. Popular rumour points to my Greek colleague as the principal instigator of the movement; but it is, of course, difficult to predicate anything with certainty on this point. There is no doubt, however, that he is now sparing no pains to arrest it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 325.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 27. Political.)

Canea, Crete, March 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE arming of the native Moslem population, which had been decided on contrary to the Vali's better judgment, has already produced some of the results which his Excellency apprehended. During the last few days I have made the round of the villages in the neighbourhood of this town, which have been exposed without official protection to the lawless propensities of the worst class of the newly-enrolled volunteers. The first day I visited the villages of Murumnies and Peribolio, lying an hour south of the town. They are exclusively Christian, but every soul had fled. In Peribolio there was not a house that had not be wrecked by the Bashi-Bazouks, every door, window, and cupboard being torn away; except in one instance, the rafters supporting the flat roofs were as yet intact; nor had fire been used as an agent of destruction, the destroyers preferring to drive the wood to town for sale as fire-wood. While passing by the village church I found two men bearing Peabody-Martini rifles busy in defacing the ornaments. In Murumnies there were also very few houses spared, and these were occupied by Moslem refugees. Two other villages further east, Nero Kuru and Isikelharia, I visited the next day, but found comparatively little damage done, due in one case to a guard of regular troops stationed there, and in the other to the fact of some of the inhabitants being Mohometans, who had protected the property of those of their neighbours with whom a friendship had existed. I also went to the large Christian village of Galata, an hour west of Canea, whence also all the inhabitants had fled. A few houses only had been gutted by Moslems from a neighbouring village. In the villages of the peninsula of Akratéré, north of Suda Bay, some ten in number, a perfect panic had prevailed, and as the people cannot easily escape to the mountains, from which they are shut off by the bay, they had taken refuge with their cattle in the large convent of Hagbia Iriada. Confidence has to some extent been restored among them, Costaki Pasha having sent the eighty Albanians who were driven out of the block-house at Alikianeo to afford them protection.

From Candia Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino reports that the Moslem peasantry had begun to arrive from districts where they had hitherto been induced to remain, and the crowding together in the town of so many destitute creatures is a grave subject for anxiety to the Governor-General, who informs me that he is urging the Porte to send a cargo of barley from Tripoli or Benghazi in order to distribute it gratuitously among the needy population, whose sufferings are growing intolerable. It is also said that the Christian peasants, who dare no longer venture near the towns, are enduring great hardships from the same cause.

The dismissal of the Mudeersarif of Rethymo, and the imprisonment for terms varying from fourteen to ninety days of those concerned in the late riots, had restored tranquillity to that town, but again news has been received of an incursion into the surrounding country by the local Mussulmans, who overpowered the guard of the gaiety, robbed 400 sheep of Christian shepherds, of whom one was killed and one wounded. Order has been already re-established and most of the sheep returned to their owners.

The blockade-runner "Panhellenion" has made a second successful voyage, landing volunteers, arms, and provisions at Bali Bay, between Candia and Rethymo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 326.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March 4, 1878.*

THE victualling of the garrison at Vamos, in Apokorona, was becoming a matter of such urgent necessity, that the Vali, fearing lest the convoy he meditated sending should be attacked on the road, sent for Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo, and asked him if he could obtain my sanction to use his good offices with the insurgent leaders to draw a promise from them to allow provisions to pass in safety. On M. Moazzo asking my consent to take upon himself the rôle of mediator, I was induced to give it, on its being clearly understood that this Consulate would be in no wise responsible for the observance of any stipulations that might be agreed on. The Vice-Consul employed two respected citizens of Canea to take a letter to a Chief in Apokorona proposing a cessation of hostilities. M. Moazzo is so highly esteemed, and possesses so great an influence over the Christian leaders, that Costaki Pasha seemed to rest all his hopes on his undertaking the task proposed. The result has been completely successful. The Chiefs in Apokorona have engaged to allow free passage to all convoys of provisions for the troops at Vamos or elsewhere, and to respect the life, honour, and property of their Mussulman compatriots.

In return for these concessions they demand:—

1. That the Government allow all Christian peasants to pass freely, without molestation, between their villages and the maritime towns.

2. That the Mussulmans respect the life, honour, and property of their Christian compatriots.

3. That they undertake no hostile step without giving them previous notice.

Costaki Pasha was delighted at the success of M. Moazzo's mediation, and has lost no time in sending provisions to the garrison of Vamos.

The Government will find great difficulty in restraining the lawlessness of the irregular troops who roam over this part of the country, and who have succeeded, by their violent proceedings, in terrifying the Christian peasantry of the neighbourhood. The Brigadier-General in command is a man of no energy, and the Porte ought never to have left the island without a military Commander possessing undoubted authority over the troops.

A battalion of 750 men arrived yesterday from the capital. Her Majesty's ship "Foxhound" arrived at the same time from Malta.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 327.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, March 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 2nd March, 1878, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the landing of Greek volunteers near Caterina, in the district of Mount Olympus, and others in the neighbourhood of Cassandra.

Also a copy of my despatch of the 4th March, 1878, to Her Majesty's Ambassador, reporting particulars of the insurrection in Thessaly received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 327.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, March 4, 1878.*

HAVING now received a despatch from Mr. Suter, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency the pith of his Report.

Your Excellency's despatch for Mr. Longworth, forwarded by me to Mr. Suter, was delivered to that gentleman, who was at Larissa, on the 28th February.

"Insurgent bands from Greece continue to appear in all directions, and encourage the rising in Thessaly, which seems now becoming general. There is more or less fighting going on everywhere.

"The small town of Platanos, near Armyro, has been burnt by the Ghegha Bashi-Bazouks.

"These, and the Zeibecks, burnt four houses at the village of Bulgarina, near Ayah, and waylaid, plundered, and murdered nine of its principal inhabitants, who were proceeding with a sum of money, to offer it to the officer in command as a bribe to prevent the entry into their village of the detachment.

"Regeb Pasha, with all the troops who came to Volo, having arrived at Larissa, was about to proceed to defend Domoko, where Hellenic volunteers are concentrating themselves.

"Many acts of heroism are recorded at the late engagement at Volo. A woman of Macrinitza went with her husband to the fight, and when he was tired, took his rifle, and kept firing for the rest of the day; and women, girls, and even children attended, and supplied the insurgents with water.

"Many of the men, and even the officers of the troops arrived at Volo, have come laden with plunder, which they have been publicly selling.

"Silver Bulgarian necklaces, bracelets, and armlets—some still with blood upon them—have been disposed of, for a trifle, and this has excited a bad feeling among the Greeks there."

The same has been going on here. A French lady bought a beautiful embroidered chemise; and a magnificent jacket was offered to her, but when she saw the hole where the bullet had passed, she refused to become the purchaser. This was related to me by the lady herself.

"There is much sickness among the Turkish troops newly arrived at Volo, chiefly from dysentery."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 327.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, March 2, 1878*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on Wednesday last, the 27th ultimo, 1,570 Nagai Tartar refugees were embarked on board an Austrian Lloyd's steamer for Smyrna, or the coast about Smyrna. The captain refused to take any Circassians on board.

The next day 600 Hellenic volunteers landed at a small port called Eithodoros, and proceeded to a village called Litokhoro, in the vicinity of Caterina, district of Mount Olympus.

They told the quarantine officer at Eithodoros to take his family and go to Salonica; and as soon as he had left they kicked the brazier of burning charcoal over and shut the door. Of course the house was burnt, and the adjoining premises, which contained much timber, were also burnt.

The authorities at Caterina telegraphed to the Vali at Salonica, and he sent 200 soldiers in a small steamer across the bay; these, with 100 more at Caterina, were insufficient to attack the volunteers, and therefore the Vali telegraphed to Constantinople for more troops.

To-day, railway cars have been sent up, and will bring down two battalions of regular soldiers from Usoup in the night.

Yesterday morning, the 1st instant, more Hellenic volunteers were signalled as

having arrived and landed at Sheekah, in the neighbourhood of Cassandra, but their number is not yet known.

To-day, the Italian Consul, Cavaliere Foscarini, who happened to be taking a walk without a cavass, was insulted and beaten by Bashi-Bazouks. The Vali has condemned two of them to six months' imprisonment, and went himself, this afternoon, to the Consul's house, to assure him personally of his regret at the occurrence.

A small Italian man-of-war, the "Authion," left to-day for Prevesa, on orders received by telegraph.

We have four Italian iron-clads, one Austrian wooden ship, and a French man-of-war, "Couronne."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. B. BARKER.

No. 328.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 328.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 8, 1878.

GENERAL SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL has been good enough to make, at my request, a memorandum, which I have the honour to inclose, together with a map, as to the boundaries of the Armenian territory annexed by Russia, according to the XIXth Article of the Preliminaries of Peace, signed by the Turkish and Russian Plenipotentiaries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 328.

Memorandum by Major-General Sir A. Kemball.

ARTICLE XIX, after enumerating the towns and districts to be ceded by Turkey to Russia in Asia, viz., Kars, Ardahan, Batoum, Bayazid, and the territory up to the Soghanli, proceeds at once to determine a line of boundaries in which the Soghanli range finds no part, but is brought, over a full day's journey, at the nearest point within the new frontier.* Whereas, too, the range in question would have provided geographical limits, admitting of neither cavil nor dispute, the limits actually proposed are so ill-defined as to suggest the intention of giving to them a temporary character only.

The immediate object, of course, of exceeding the limits† ostensibly avowed, is to be traced to the resolution to embrace within the ceded territory the great commercial road, the only road, indeed, which will now lead from the shores of the Black Sea through the Turkish dominions into Persia, the passes of the Sherian Dagh which it traverses, and the rich lands of Alishgerd, comprised in the valley of the Euphrates, and watered by that river. How far British interests may be concerned in the practical or possible closure of that road to English trade is a matter, I believe, which has been fully appreciated by your Excellency. It only falls within my province to record the *fait accompli* by the terms of the Article under review.

I have endeavoured to lay down on the accompanying map‡ the boundaries specified in that Article. The dotted line on yellow ground marks its general direction, the ranges of the Soghanli being coloured blue. But although drawn with care, after due comparison of the several maps within my reach, including the Turkish official map and Kieppert's special (1877), both based on the Russian official map, this line, I must observe, is, at several points, necessarily conjectural. Apart from the serious topographical discrepancies which abound in the said maps, the proposed line is made to pass over mountain ranges, such as the "Derve nix Gheki," and "Hortchogor," and "Bedjighuin Dagh"; and through villages such as Alut and Zaily Viknie, and Viknie Kilissa and Gilitchman, which (excepting the last-named village, mentioned only in

* From Milliduz, at the head of the Sari Kamysh defile, to Khorasan, is 21 miles. From Khunkhiar Dag, at the head of the Yenikeni defile, to Zewin, is 23 miles, and to Nariman, is 50 miles.

† By extending the line to Nariman the town and Kaimakamate of Olti become also included in the ceded territory, in addition to those of Batoum and Ardahan.

‡ Kieppert's, 1858.

PRINCIPALITY
OF
SERVIA
ROUMANIA
HERZEGOVINA
BULGARIA
WIDIN
NISCH
NOVI-BAZAR
SOFIA
Bolegradjik
Botevira
Tshiprovats
Ak Palanka
Kurshumlje
Pedajevo
Kostendil
Djuma
Radomir
Servian position when news of Armistice arrived.
Line of Demarcation fixed by Russians at Adrianople.
(Traced from Kiepert's Map).
Scale, 1/2,000,000.
N.B. The Servians have also advanced 3,760 metres into the Little Zvornik district from the Karaula on the north of it, and 1,660 from that to the south of it. The Turks occupy the Servian Island of Bujuklish. All these are too insignificant to be shown on this scale.

the Turkish map), are not to be discovered in any of them. I have, in fact, been compelled to connect, arbitrarily, the several points, as to which no question could arise, and which are restricted to the townships of Artwin and Khamur, and the villages of Sewin (not "Zivvin"), Ardost, and Khorasou, and the Lake of Kazli-Geul.

I would willingly have preferred either the Turkish official or Kieppert's special map for the delineation of the new frontier, to that which is herewith submitted, because, being presumably compiled from information obtained by Russian engineer officers, who, two or three years before the war, were attached to the Russian Consulate at Erzeroum, and, under the guise of Consular employés, were known to have surveyed the country in every direction; these maps must, of course, be more reliable. Unhappily, however, at those points precisely where accuracy is most needed, the said maps assume a skeleton form, or are simply blank, and the details in the other published maps prove to be most discrepant. More especially must the delimitation be found to be difficult at the crossing of the numerous rivers which intersect the line throughout its course from the shores of the Black Sea to the Persian frontier.

It would be idle, of course, under the circumstances of the case, to discuss the question of the new frontier in its military bearings. It places, as it is no doubt intended to place, the adjacent Turkish territory, as far as Trebizonde and Mama Khatoun on the one side, and Moush and Van on the other, at the mercy absolutely of Russia. It gives her the possession of the head waters of the Euphrates, and the command of all the main roads on either hand, and thereby it increases her power of offensive action in the future, while, for merely defensive purposes, no advantage will accrue to her from the appropriation of Olti and of the passes of Delibaba and Hadji-Khulul which would not have been acquired by the occupation of the Soghanli Dagh alone.

(Signed) A. E. KEMBALL.

Constantinople, March 8, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 328.

Map showing the Boundaries of the Armenian Territory annexed by Russia according to the XIXth Article of the Preliminaries of Peace.

No. 329.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 329.)

Constantinople, March 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of despatches from Mr. Longworth, giving an estimate of the different populations in Thessaly, and a report on outrages committed in that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Larissa, February 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that accounts of outrages committed on Christians by the irregular Mussulman levies reach us from all parts of Thessaly; and that these reports, though greatly exaggerated, contain a sufficient amount of truth to give serious cause of alarm for the safety of the people.

Though the civil and military authorities are taking pains to put a stop to this sad state of affairs, yet the difficulties are now such, that they have lost all confidence in the success of their own efforts. So much so that Ibraim Pasha, the Governor of the Province, in confidentially showing me a telegram he sent to the Vali of Janina, proposing the incorporation of the irregulars with the regulars, or their total disband-

ment, went so far as to exclaim to me in French, "Si l'on voulait seulement prendre ceci en considération, il serait le salut du peuple."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 320.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Larissa, *February* 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to furnish your Excellency, in tabular form, the fullest and most reliable information obtainable, as to the numbers of Mussulman and non-Mussulman populations in the Province of Thessaly.

(Table 1.)—CHRISTIAN and Mahometan Male Populations, procured from the Turkish Local Authorities.

District.	Mussulman.	Christian.	Total.
Larissa	8,173	24,960	33,133
Volo	1,070	23,193	24,263
Tricala	973	21,240	22,213
Karditza	659	9,151	9,801
Pharsala	2,284	4,862	7,146
Karatova	1,251	21,324	22,575
Armyro	1,141	2,419	3,570
Total	16,563	106,020	122,183

(Table 2.)—MAHOMETAN Population; procured from the Mufti and Imams.

District.	Number.
Larissa	10,207
Volo	1,543
Armyro	1,740
Pharsala	3,200
Dereliu	1,800
Tricala	2,250
Elassona	1,250
Total	21,990

(Table 3.)—CHRISTIAN Population; procured from the Archbishop and Priests.

District.	Number.
Larissa	67,000
Volo	75,000
Pharsala	24,000
Derelin	15,000
Karditza	45,750
Tricala	19,000
Zarko	2,000
Elassona	15,000
Vlachavia	12,750
Velestino	16,000
Total	292,500

(Table 4.)—CHRISTIAN and Mahometan Populations; procured from private sources.

District.	Christians.			Mahommedans.			Total.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Larissa	30,875	34,125	65,000	9,300	10,700	20,000	81,000
Volo	24,225	26,775	51,000	1,256	1,444	2,700	54,050
Tricala	33,250	36,750	70,000	1,023	1,177	2,200	72,500
Karditza	24,225	26,775	51,000	1,305	1,695	3,000	54,000
Elassona	16,625	18,375	35,000	1,675	1,926	3,600	38,600
Thessaly	7,600	8,400	16,000	1,053	2,247	4,200	20,200
Armyro	4,750	5,250	10,000	698	802	1,500	11,500
	141,550	156,450	298,000	17,309	19,865	37,200	335,850

Nothing like accuracy can possibly be obtained with respect to the population of Thessaly. The following surmise, however, taken in round numbers from the estimates contained in the above Tables, might be considered approximately correct.

ESTIMATE of Populations in Thessaly.

Creed.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Christian	124,100	176,800	300,900
Mahometan	16,900	17,600	34,500
Total	141,000	194,400	335,400

The entire population of the province would include, in addition to the above, about—

Bulgarian nomads	3,000
Jews	5,600
Gypsies	3,000

Besides the migratory tribes of—

Greek shepherds	2,500
Wallachian ditto	14,000
Albanian ditto	3,000

Who descend their mountains into the plains of Thessaly during the colder months of the year.

The only Mahometan emigrants now settled in this province are 1,100 Circassians and 300 Tartars, distributed along the Greek frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

No. 330.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 15. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, March* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to former reports (Political), relative to the descent on the adjacent coast of Epirus, made by armed bands from this island, I have the honour to state in continuation that:—

1. On the night of the 7th instant the Turkish ironclad "Mahmoudié," Captain Mehmet Ali Bey, was observed passing up channel, and to take up a position close in shore, opposite the town and forts of Santi Quaranta.

2. During the same night a body of Turkish troops from Janina, between 3,000 and 4,000 strong, and consisting of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, had crossed the mountains, and having on their way secured the plain of Dolvino, by early morning had taken up positions so as completely to isolate Santi Quaranta on the land side. At

the same time a strong detachment of men were disembarked from the "Mahmoudié," who occupied the shore road to the northward, so that the communications of the (so-called) insurgents with the interior were completely cut off. In their rear, however, wooded heights, extending for some five miles southwards, as far as the navigable channel which connects the Lake of Butrinto with the sea, but shut in by the waters of the bay to the westward and to the eastward by the lake, remained unoccupied. On the loftiest of those heights stands the monastery of St. George, a massive building, and affording a strong defensible position.

3. The attack was commenced by the Turks, who advanced to storm the positions occupied by the insurgents inside and around the forts, which were shelled at the same time by the ironclad. For several hours the besieged appear to have made a desperate resistance; but in the course of the afternoon they were driven from all their defences, and compelled to retreat along the ridge above described, where they occupied the monastery, and for some time longer made an obstinate defence. Towards nightfall, however, they were compelled to give in, and such of them as escaped alive took refuge in the thick scrub along the borders of the lake, and in the caverns among the rocks along the sea-shore.

4. Early next morning the "Mahmoudié" was observed to have taken up a position off the entrance of the river, or canal, of Butrinto, so as to render the escape of the fugitives on that side impossible; and, as on the preceding day, while the fighting was going on, numbers of women and children had been observed on the shore both above and below Santi Quaranta; and as it was confidently reported in this place that a blockade had been established along the whole coast, and was being rigidly enforced by the armed Turkish vessels, I judged it advisable, after consultation held with Commander Fitzgerald, of the "Rapid," to request him to proceed to where the "Mahmoudié" was anchored, in order to obtain from her Captain authentic information relative to the rumoured blockade, and as to whether, under any circumstances, he objected to allowing women and children, rendered homeless by the destruction of their villages, to be taken over to Corfu for shelter and the means of subsistence.

5. As thus agreed upon, the "Rapid" steamed across (eight miles) at sunrise. Commander Fitzgerald, on boarding the ironclad, was courteously received by Mehmet Ali, and was informed that the blockade had been established and effective, and that he objected, under the circumstances, to communication with the Albanian coast by boats from the Corfu side of the Channel, whence so many brigands had been launched on Turkish territory; but that he would permit the boats of the "Rapid," accompanied by the boats of the ironclad, to embark women and children, on condition of being previously furnished with a request, in writing, from me, as Her Majesty's Consul, sanctioning the measure.

What had thus passed was personally reported to me at 10 o'clock A.M. by Commander Fitzgerald, and not seeing my way clear to act, I forthwith despatched a short cypher telegram to Mr. Wyndham, advising him of the suppression of the attempted insurrection, the burning of the insurgent villages, the destitution and distress to which large numbers of helpless women and children were reduced, and the terms, as above stated, on which the Turkish Commander was disposed to permit the only possible measure for their effective relief to be carried out, concluding with a request for advice.

To this, only four hours later, I received Mr. Wyndham's reply, stating that he had forwarded my telegram to the Embassy at Constantinople; and up to this present writing I have heard nothing further on the subject.

What subsequently occurred in the course of the day (9th instant) in connection with passing events, I must beg to be allowed to report in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 331.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 16. Political.)

Corfu, March 11, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my preceding despatch I had the honour to state to your Lordship that at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 9th instant I had addressed a telegraphic message

to Mr. Wyndham at Athens, requesting advice under the circumstances therein detailed.

2. An hour later I received an urgent summons from our doyen, Conemenos Bey, Ottoman Consul-General, to attend a meeting of the Consular body about to assemble at his office, on important business.

3. Not having the slightest idea of what was the matter, and as it was mail day, I tarried to make arrangements for corresponding with our Vice-Consuls in the southern islands, and it was not till towards noon I was able to start for the rendezvous.

4. On nearing the Ottoman Consulate, I found the street crowded with some thousands of citizens of all classes, apparently in an excited state. The crowd opened to allow me to pass, and without asking any questions, I hastened through to join my colleagues, whom I found assembled in full number in the house of Conemenos Bey.

5. In despair of my arrival, they had entered on the business of the meeting, and their *procès-verbal* was already drawn up, and ready for signature. In explanation of their proceedings, a letter from the military commandant, addressed to Conemenos Bey, was read to me, in which the Bey was advised that the public mind was much excited by the miscarriage of the expedition so disastrously terminated; that he was regarded as a principal cause of this untoward event, by which the lives of a number of the natives had been sacrificed; that he was in danger of being attacked by an enraged multitude, while he (the Commandant) had not a military force at disposal sufficient for his protection. The letter concluded by advising him to take immediate steps for calming the suspicions of the multitude, and for setting himself right with public opinion.

6. Such was the pressure under which the meeting of the Consuls had been held, and with the object of affording a colleague advice and support at a critical moment.

I now understood the meaning of the assembled crowd; and however objectionable the conclusions of the *procès-verbal*, I signed it, feeling it was no longer a time for discussion, but for action, and that whatever should come of it, time would at least be gained for calming the excited passions of the multitude.

7. I lost not a moment, therefore, in communicating with Commander Fitzgerald, who, on the urgency of the case being explained to him, readily consented to carry out his part of the Consular programme, and set about getting up steam on the instant.

I was earnestly urged by my colleagues to accompany Conemenos Bey on his expedition, but this I positively declined, and the Italian Consul was induced to undertake the office. I, at the same time, deemed it right and proper to suggest the expediency, on the score of humanity, of—

(1) Coming to some arrangement with the captain of the "Mahmoudié" respecting the treatment of prisoners, with a view to provide medical aid from here, if required.

(2) To endeavour, if possible, to induce him to permit the conveyance of the désolate families from the burnt villages to Corfu.

8. The answer of Mehmet Ali to the Consular propositions shows he is well instructed in the duties of his position.

It is something, after all, to have gained from him the assurance that fugitives delivering themselves up, will be well treated. But his answers to the two additional requests, as above noted, are altogether evasive, unless, indeed, all the wounded in the late engagements were butchered on the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 331.

Procès-Verbal.

LES Soussignés, Consuls d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie et de Russie, réunis chez leur Doyen Conémènos Bey, Consul de Turquie, sont de l'avis unanime, en présence des graves événements qui se passent sur la côte d'Epire et de l'état de surexcitation de la population de Corfou, d'inviter leur collègue de Turquie à se rendre personnellement auprès du Commandant de la frégate Ottomane, pour essayer, dans un but purement humanitaire, d'obtenir de lui la faculté de sauver d'une extermina-

[illegible] totale et d'un carnage inutile les derniers survivants de l'expédition réfugiés sur la plage et désormais hors d'état de se défendre.

Corfou, Samedi, le 9 Mars, 1878.

(Signé) M. FELS.
CARINIANI.
E. WIET.
SEBRIGHT.
CESTARI.
P. JADOWSKI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 331.

Commandant Bey to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Constantinople, and to the Vali of Jannina.

(Télégraphique.) *Le 27 Février, 1878, 10 heures du soir.*

ACCOMPAGNÉ du Consul d'Italie, je me suis rendu à Bucintro. Le Commandant de notre cuirassé a déclaré, en présence du Consul d'Italie et du Commandant du "Rapid," qu'il n'y a pas de femmes et d'enfants qui chercheraient à se réfugier; que les troupes Impériales sont venus sauver, au contraire, les paisibles habitants d'une invasion de brigands; que tout est rentré dans l'ordre; que pour ce qui concerne la demande formulée par les Consuls de permettre à des embarcations, de recueillir les derniers survivants de l'expédition qui seraient réfugiés sur la plage, Mehmet Bey a déclaré qu'il n'y en a point, tous ayant été dispersés, mais que dans tous les cas il ne saurait déférer à la demande formulée par les Consuls, cette question appartenant à la décision de la Sublime Porte. Il a ajouté toutefois que si des envahisseurs se rendent à lui à discrétion, ils seraient considérés comme prisonniers de guerre, auraient la vie sauvé, et seraient bien traités.

Le Consul d'Italie et le Commandant du "Rapid" ont été autorisés par Mehmet Bey à transmettre ces assurances tant au Corps Consulaire qu'aux autorités de l'île aussi bien qu'au public.

No. 332.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord, *Corfu, March 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a despatch which I have this morning received from Mr. Vice-Consul Onofrio, reporting the defeat and expulsion from Turkish territory of the raiders assembled on the Acarnanian frontier.

There is no time before the post-hour to make a translation of the documents referred to in the despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 332.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, March 9, 1878.*

THE so-called "Insurrection in Epirus," has, to all appearances, been quenched. Such is, at least the gist of the latest reports received from different sources relative to the state of affairs on the Turco-Acarnanian frontier, from which it would appear that not only the raiders have actually recrossed the frontier into Greece, but that many of them had returned to their respective homes. It is said, however, that another expedition, in which the "Evzones" would take part, is in contemplation.

2. I beg to transmit herewith a copy of the local newspaper, the "Omonia," containing interesting disclosures relative to the proceedings of certain leaders of bands to whom the "Patriotic Committees" had committed the task of raising the Epirote question, and of delivering the Rayahs of that province from Turkish misrule. Public

feeling here is raised to a high pitch of indignation by the proceedings denounced in the paragraph alluded to, and it is even said that a Commission from Athens will be sent to the frontier to inquire into the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

No. 333.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 14 Mars, 1878, soir.*

JE porte à votre connaissance la nouvelle suivante de notre Consul à Jannina:—"En ce moment on ouvre ici les portes des prisons, par suite d'un ordre reçu de Constantinople, à plus de 200 malfaiteurs Musulmans. Ces hommes, réunis à ceux qu'on va faire sortir des prisons d'Arta et de Prevesa, seront dirigés tout de suite sur Santi Quaranta, en Epire, afin de combattre les insurgés qui s'y trouvait."

No. 334.

Prince Bismarck to Count Münster.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Münster, March 15.)

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, March 15, 1878.*

WE have already informed your Excellency that we have accepted the proposal for a Conference at Berlin, but have not been able to undertake the issue of formal invitations until an agreement has been arrived at among the Powers on the preliminary conditions of its meeting. Instead of continuing negotiations on this point between the several Cabinets by means of correspondence which crosses other despatches, it seems to us to be more to the purpose that the Governments concerned should initiate discussions in a preliminary Conference of second Plenipotentiaries, or better still of their Representatives accredited here, in order to make preparations in regard to matter and form for the deliberations of the Conference.

All preliminary questions, the settlement of which may appear to all and any of the Powers to be necessary for the actual deliberations, or desirable for the speedy and unobstructed development of the real work of the Conference, would thus be so arranged that the Ministers who are to conduct the negotiation would be relieved from them and thus the main work of the Conference would be brought to a speedy conclusion.

No. 335.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 14, 1878.*

I LEARN from M. Depretis to-day that his conversation with Austrian Ambassador, reported in my despatch No. 194, Most Confidential, of the 11th instant, took place in consequence of a proposal made by the latter, in execution of instructions from his Government, that Italy and Austria should act together in the Congress, and generally in regard to Eastern affairs. M. Depretis expressed the readiness of the Italian Government to do this, but made the observations about Bosnia which I have reported. I told his Excellency that I regretted that he had not informed me at once of the Austrian proposal.

M. Depretis has heard from General Menabrea respecting the understanding which Her Majesty's Government are desirous of arriving at with the Italian Government respecting the Mediterranean interests.

He approves the idea, and will speak in favour of it to his successor. Please let me know answers of Austria and France.

No Ministry yet formed, and crisis may last some days longer.

No. 336.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 305.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 14, 1878.

WITH respect to your telegram of the 12th instant, Porte sees no objection to "Rapid" moving destitute women and children from the coast of Albania. It will send fresh instructions to Turkish Admiral and to Turkish Consul at Corfu to offer no opposition.

No. 337.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15, 4·10 P.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 15, 1878, 1·30 P.M.

LAST night I had a short conversation with M. Cairoli. He expressed great pleasure at Her Majesty's Government having taken up the cause of Greece, and said that Greek Representative ought certainly to be admitted to Congress. His language was altogether very satisfactory in regard to Italy pursuing the same policy as England. I told him that if he came into office I should have a distinct proposal to make to him. I hinted at its general purport, but did not enter into details. He is sanguine of forming a Ministry, but encounters many difficulties. He will take Presidency of Council without office.

No. 338.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15, 6·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 15, 1878, 4·45 P.M.

GERMAN Ambassador has just communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs a proposal from his Government, which will be communicated to the other Powers, that before the Congress preliminary Conferences should take place at Berlin, with a view to settle programme, formalities, and so forth. In these Conferences the Powers would be represented by the second Plenipotentiaries or the resident Ambassadors.

Minister for Foreign Affairs said that, of course, it was not intended that any solution of questions should be attempted at these Conferences, and that he saw no objection to the proposal, but would consult the Cabinet, and hoped to give answer to-morrow.

No. 339.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 306. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

I AM informed that Grand Duke Nicholas applied to the Emperor for permission to go to Russia, after remaining a couple of days at Constantinople, when the ratifications have been exchanged, but he has been ordered to remain at San Stefano.

I understand there is a very general desire on the part of the Russian officers to return to Russia at once by sea. The question of the Grand Duke's visit to Sultan is not yet settled, the Sultan making difficulty as to returning it.

No. 340.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(No. 307. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

PRINCE HASSAN has arrived from Varna, and has asked Khedive to permit him to return with the Egyptian contingent of 25,000 men to Egypt. Khedive has left it to his discretion to do so. He appears dissatisfied with the manner in which he has been treated by the Porte, and will probably return, having applied for transports.

No. 341.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Bucharest, March* 15, 1878.

THE agents of Russian Red Cross inform me that they have charge in Bulgaria, north and south of the Balkans, of 30,000 sick Russians and Turks, exclusive of cases in purely military hospitals, of which I can obtain no information.

The state of the cavalry and artillery horses is reported to be far from satisfactory. There is little or no communication between this country and the forces south of the Balkans, all communications now taking sea-route from Odessa. The Russian post now goes hence to Constantinople by Varna.

No. 342.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1878.

IN reply to your telegram No. 10 of yesterday, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to sound Austria and France as to a joint understanding with regard to communications between Black Sea and Mediterranean, until you shall have communicated with the Italian Government upon the subject, as soon as the new Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs is appointed.

No. 343.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. . Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 15, 1878, 4·15 P.M.

THE German Ambassador read to me confidentially this afternoon a telegram from Prince Bismarck, of the substance of which I inclose a Memorandum herewith.

Count Münster, in reference to the plan of a preliminary Conference suggested in this telegram, threw out the idea that such a meeting might discuss and settle the question of the presidency at the Congress about to be held.

I asked what was the difficulty in regard to that which required to be dealt with by an exceptional mode of procedure. Would it not be better that the German Representative should retain the presidency in any case according to custom?

Count Münster thereupon asked whether Her Majesty's Government thought it better that the presidency should be given to Prince Bismarck or to his substitute in case of his absence?

I said I had no doubt on this point myself, and that I thought I could speak in regard to it in the name of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 344.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, March* 3, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 14 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have

this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the arrival of 1,300 refugees at Lattakia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, March* 5, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that yesterday I received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitale, at Lattakia, the following telegram:—"About 1,300 Circassian refugees arrived here from Salonica; they are all armed. May I be permitted to assist them, either in Her Majesty's Government's or British Committee's name, in order to keep them quiet, this town being unable to board (or bear) them?"

To this I have replied:—"I cannot authorize you to incur expense you propose, having no funds at my disposal for such purposes."

Amongst the first refugees who arrived here about three weeks ago, only fourteen families were found to be in actual want, the remainder possessing means, either in money or property, sufficient to provide for their own necessities, and probably, on investigation, it will be found that the others who arrive are in a similar position, though on their first arrival they may require a little assistance in the way of food and lodging.

Although the refugees who arrive in Syria are generally described as Circassians, a large proportion of them are the Mussulman inhabitants of European Turkey, who have been obliged to abandon their homes through the exigencies of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 345.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 296. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 1, 1878.

I UNDERSTAND that the Russian Plenipotentiaries have been urging upon Safvet Pasha the necessity of ceding Koutour to Persia, and I am also told that the Persian Government have already agreed, in case the cession is completed, to make over to Russia a certain portion of the coast on the Caspian Sea.

I would venture to suggest that Her Majesty's Government should endeavour to ascertain from Teheran whether there is any truth in the latter report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 346.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 298. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of two telegrams communicated to me by the Porte; one containing charges against the Greek Consul in Crete of encouraging the insurrectionary movement in that island; the other relating to the attempts made by Greek Agents in Thessaly and Epirus to induce the Mussulman landed proprietors to make common cause with the Greeks against the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 346.

Telegrams communicated to Mr. Layard by the Porte.

(Traduction.) *Le* $\frac{4}{17}$ *Février*, 1878.

LE Gouvernement Hellène, qui a envoyé des messagers spéciaux aux Boys qui résident dans le Live et les Cazas de Serrétké, qui est situé dans la circonscription de Monastir, Alapone, Domchi, Cartanizza, Trikala, et Yeniskehr, afin de leur faire savoir que s'ils se mettent d'accord avec les Grecs, ils auront leurs richesses et leur tranquillité sauvées et intactes, mais que si, au contraire, ils se mettent contre la Grèce, leurs propriétés seront confisquées par les Grecs et elles ne leur seront jamais restituées.

J'ai donc l'honneur de faire savoir à votre Excellence qu'à la suite de pareilles menaces et exhortations, les notables des villes se trouvent sur le point de faire cause commune avec la Grèce.

(Traduction.) *Le* $\frac{12}{24}$ *Février*, 1878.

Depuis quinze jours il n'était arrivé aucun fait anormal ni du côté des Musulmans ni du côté des Chrétiens et la tranquillité était parfaite. Aujourd'hui inopinément un nombre considérable de bandits en armes ont fait leur apparition aux alentours de la fortification de Izzeddin et vers les tours de Malessa et de Terrané, et comme ils s'étaient mis à tour des coups de fusil, les bateaux de guerre du Gouvernement qui se trouvent dans l'arsenal de Souda y ont répondu par quelques coups de canon. En même temps, ayant fait marcher d'ici quatre bataillons de troupes, les susdits bandits ont été repoussés.

D'après mes informations l'assemblée en question est d'opinion que la tranquillité ne devait pas être troublée, mais le Consul Grec, moyennant les fonds qu'il reçoit de la Grèce, pousse et excite un tas de bandits à organiser de pareilles séditions.

D'après ce qu'il m'a été donné à comprendre de la part de quelques notables Musulmans et Chrétiens dignes de foi, tant autant que ce Consul reste ici il ne pourra que donner lieu à ce que le feu de la sédition requiert de plus en plus de la force et de l'extension.

Par conséquent il dépend de votre Excellence de faire à cet égard ce que la circonstance exige.

No. 347.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 299.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to state that the Preliminaries of Peace were signed yesterday at 5 P.M.

General Ignatiew, at the close of the negotiations, made a demand that a declaration should be attached to the Treaty, signed by Turkey, to the effect that the conditions had been accepted by her of her own free will, and not under compulsion, and that she was prepared to maintain this before the Powers in Conference.

The Sultan absolutely refused his consent to this demand, and it would appear that the authorities at St. Petersburgh were not prepared to support it.

The provisions of the Treaty are kept very secret, and I have been unable to obtain a copy. I hear, however, that the Russian pretensions have been so far modified as to withdraw the demand for the Turkish ironclads, to reduce the pecuniary indemnity from 40,000,000 sterling to 12,000,000, and also to forego the tribute of Egypt and of Bulgaria as guarantees for its payment.

The Turkish Plenipotentiaries have also, it is said, succeeded in retaining Sabonica, and ten miles of territory around it to Turkey; but the coast of the Black Sea from Bourgas to Kustendje is to be left to Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 348.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 16.*)

(No. 301.)

Constantinople, March 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three despatches from Mr. Consul Reade, which give very painful accounts of the state of affairs at Shumla and in the surrounding district. I have had a memorandum made of them for the Prime Minister, and I shall urge upon His Highness, in the strongest terms, to take stringent measures to prevent the excesses and outrages, described by Mr. Reade, which are being committed in consequence of the state of anarchy caused by the incompetency and misconduct of the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 348.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, March 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 24th ultimo, availing myself of the departure of a train sent for soldiers from Silistria, I proceeded to Shumla in order to inquire into the state of things there, of which I had heard very unfavourable statements, and I deeply regret to say that I found matters even worse than what had been reported.

The General commanding, Fazli Pasha, appears to have lost what little of wits he had before. Everything is most grossly neglected. Anarchy, confusion, and disorder of every description are rampant in the place. The subordinates do just what they please, consequently these are profiting by the occasion; and bribery, extortion, and injustice of every shape are in full force. The Government debts, although there is plenty of money in the chest, are not paid, and the Government supplies in every department are either taken, or far inferior articles given in place thereof.

As regards the Civil Government, of which the Kaïmakam, Danish Effendi, is the head, things are still worse. Evidently knowing that his time here is short, he is making hay whilst the sun shines. Not only are the Civil Government's debts also not paid, but as all possible arrears have been taken, the very taxes of next year are being extorted in several quarters where it is supposed that this can be done safely. I will give your Excellency an instance. On Tuesday last, the 25th ultimo, a certain Tefik Chaus and two Circassians, all three notorious characters, were sent by the Kaïmakam to Eski Stamboul, three hours distant from Shumla, with orders to collect by force what taxes of next year they could.

The people said they were utterly unable to pay; on which these worthies commenced beating and torturing them. Two Bulgarians, knowing of a Cossack picket about three hours' off, secretly went off, and soon after returned with some twenty Cossacks. Tefik Chaus, having been informed by a woman of their approach, managed to escape, but the two Circassians were actually caught by the Cossacks in the very act of beating some people. They were at once seized and hanged on the spot.

I could give your Excellency other instances, but I should be trespassing too much on your time.

The Russians, and even the Turkish authorities, at Varna allow a free circulation between the two lines, but Fazli not only will not permit the natives of the different places in Russian occupation to return to their homes, but refuses also to give them the assistance in food of which they are in need.

As regards the refugees, their condition from the utter negligence, apathy, and robbery (as regards bread) of the authorities is simply frightful.

Apart the horrible dens and styes in which they are huddled, the numbers prostrate from small-pox, typhus, and other maladies, and the many with feet black and green with gangrene from frostbites, none of whom are noticed by any of the numerous army doctors; the cadaverous faces and limbs from the loathsome black compound given to the refugees as bread, are all sickening in the extreme.

Many have been relieved from all this dreadful suffering by death in the very

streets. Many I myself saw at death's door, and those with gangrene must die. I spoke to the authorities, and loudly so, but I am convinced that all their promises, after my departure, became dead letters.

I have established some soup kitchens in Shumla, but from the number of refugees (in and round the town about 200,000) these will only go a little way. I have pressed the Governor-General here, and he has telegraphed stringent orders, but I feel sure these will be evaded.

The only person that really did anything for these unfortunate creatures was Edib Effendi. Whilst he was in Shumla they were looked after. He has now left, and I am convinced that as long as General Fazli Pasha, and the Kaïmakam, Danish Effendi, are in authority, matters will only go from bad to worse.

Most of the streets are knee-deep in mud and filth of every description, and carcasses of dead animals are lying about in every direction.

In the very name of humanity alone, the authorities I have named should be removed, and others put in their places who will not be the disgrace to human nature the present ones are.

As military Commander I would strongly recommend Salami Pasha, late of Silistria, and as Kaïmakam, Tahsin Effendi, the Tithe Director, both here, and who, I feel sure, would do something.

If something is not quickly done a plague must break out, and carry off most of those that have survived up to this.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 348.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, March 2, 1878.

Sir,

WHEN lately at Shumla, I made diligent inquiries as to the Djuma massacre reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 6th ultimo.

I questioned a great many on the subject, and from these I regret to say that I found that what had been reported to me was not exaggerated.

The number of victims, of which a list will be sent to me in a few days, is between 395 and 400.

The Turks to whom I also spoke, evidently knowing the affair to be a bad one, would not say anything to me.

The two responsible for this massacre, are the General Salih Pasha and Nejib Bey, the Kaïmakam.

The former, in addition to what I had the honour to report to your Excellency just before sunset on the evening previous to the massacre, sent the town crier round to tell the people to remain in their houses as they had nothing to fear, and soon afterwards went away with all the troops, and before he left, the Christians offered to pay for 200 soldiers to escort them to Shumla, after the army, but he absolutely refused to accede to this.

Directly the troops had left, Nejib Bey, the Kaïmakam, liberated and armed all the criminals in the prison, and after telling them "to do their duty," also left for Shumla. The pillage and massacre then commenced.

About six Mussulmans of Djuma behaved most admirably, and all the Christians told me that but for them the number of victims would have been several thousands; of these I found one, Yussuf Aga, in prison at Shumla. Directly, however, I spoke about him, he was released; the others, seeing that Yussuf had been arrested, fled to Djuma, where they now are.

This shows how the authorities look on these massacres.

There are about fifty in prison at Shumla, but the worst of the culprits, of whom I have seven names, and who, as I was told, have been able to bribe the authorities with a part of their plunder, are at large. Nothing more whatever has been done; the authorities pretend to be holding an inquiry, but not a Christian has been called before it, and as long as Fazli Pasha and Danish Effendi are there, nothing will be done.

Many of the horses and cattle plundered at Djuma are being sold in the open market at Shumla, and the sellers hold in their hands permits that have been purchased from Danish Effendi. Some were pointed out to me, but the owners were afraid of

claiming them. I spoke to the Kaïmakam on the subject, but he not only did nothing but continues to sell the permits.

I heard that the Russians are collecting minute details of the massacre.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 348.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, March* 2, 1878.

WHILST I was at Shumla I was informed that nine Christian girls had been kidnapped by Circassians, and whose whereabouts were known.

I at once went to the Kaïmakam on the subject. Eight were recovered within two hours, but the ninth was already on her way to Varna.

I pressed the Kaïmakam, and got a Yuzbashi and six zaptiehs with two Bulgarians who knew the girl sent after her. She was found on the road near Varna, brought here, and is to be sent back to her parents.

Three Circassian men and one woman accused of carrying off this girl I have got imprisoned, but whether they will be further punished I do not know.

I yesterday got the Governor-General to order the search of every Circassian family arriving here, so that I hope that if there are any other stolen girls they will be recovered.

All this kidnapping is entirely from the negligence and apathy of the authorities at Shumla, where all the Circassians are collected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 349.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 302. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 4, 1878.

MOHSIN KHAN, the Persian Minister at the Porte, informs me that he had suggested to the Persian Prime Minister that, in consequence of the territorial changes about to take place in Armenia by the cession to Russia of a part of that province, Persia requires some rectification of her frontier on the Turkish side, and that in the event of the meeting of a Congress, Persia should be represented at it, in order that her interests might be put forward, and protected. The Persian Prime Minister seems to have acted upon this suggestion, and to have directed the Persian Representative at St. Petersburgh, and, Mohsin Khan believes, the Persian Minister in London, to enter into communication on the subject with the Governments to which they are accredited. The Russian Government at once admitted, Mohsin Khan tells me, the justice of the Persian claim to a rectification of the frontier, and telegraphed to Count Ignatiew on the subject. It was on this account, my Persian colleague thinks, that Count Ignatiew obtained from Turkey the promise to cede Koutour to Persia, to which I have referred in my despatch No. of . But Mohsin Khan is not aware that Russia has demanded any territorial concessions from Persia in return for obtaining Koutour for her.

Mohsin Khan seems to think it essential that a Persian Representative should be present at the Conference, in order to watch over and support Persian interests which are involved in the territorial changes about to be made near the Persian frontiers, and he has asked me to recommend the subject to your Lordship's attention. I could only tell Mohsin Khan that I would submit his observations to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 350.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 303.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 4, 1878.

A DEPUTATION consisting of some of the leading Mussulman landholders of the district of Philippopoli came to me yesterday with a petition, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation, requesting Her Majesty's Government to advocate the cause of the Mohammedan population of the new Bulgaria in the Conference or Congress about to be held, and to obtain for them proper guarantees for the protection of their lives, their property and their honour. I informed them that I would transmit their petition to your Lordship, and that I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government would do all that might depend upon them to obtain just and equal treatment for Christians and Mussulmans alike, as such had ever been the policy of England. They replied that they were well aware that such had always been her policy, and that it was on this account that they turned to her at this time.

I had some conversation with the persons forming the deputation, who were, for the most part, known personally to Mr. Baring, and fairly represented, in his opinion, the Mussulman population of the Philippopoli district. They informed me that the greater part of their property had been destroyed, and that unless such guarantees as they asked for were given to them, they could not return in safety to their homes. They described the Mohametans of Roumelia as very much reduced in number, owing to the massacres committed by the Bulgarians, and the sufferings they had experienced in their flight, and those who had succeeded in escaping, and those who had remained in the Province, as having lost everything. Fortunately, they said, seed had been sown in many places before the Russians appeared, and consequently it might be hoped that some crops would be gathered in this spring.

One or two of the deputation stated that their cattle had been taken by the Bulgarians, and might be recovered.

In answer to my question whether they could live in the new Principality under Christian rule, they answered that they could do so, provided that they were under Bulgarians and not Russians, and that England obtained for them the guarantees for which they asked in their petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 350.

Petition.

(Translation.)

LE but de notre humble requête est le suivant :—

En ayant l'honneur de rappeler la promesse de faire justice aux Musulmans annoncée dans la Chambre des Lords par l'organe du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de 100,000,000 de Musulmans, nous nous adressons maintenant à son Ambassadeur à Constantinople, son Excellence Mr. Layard, pour prier que la promesse en question soit mise en exécution. Voilà ce que le noble Lord Derby a déclaré dans la Chambre :

"Quand les conditions de paix viendraient à être connues, le Gouvernement Anglais les soumettrait à un examen minutieux et attentif, attendu qu'en des premiers devoirs c'est d'assurer une égalité de droits générale qui comprenne aussi les Musulmans."

Nous basant sur cette promesse auguste, nous nous flattons de l'espoir que le Plénipotentiaire au Congrès de Sa Majesté l'Impératrice de tant de millions de Musulmans ne se bornera point à sanctionner le Traité de San Stefano. Notre but n'est pas seulement de faire savoir que nous ne voudrions pas nous séparer de notre pays et de nos propriétés, ni de subir le sort et les vicissitudes des Musulmans de Valachie et Moldavie, de la Serbie, de la Morée et du Caucase, mais de demander des garanties suffisantes pour la protection de notre vie, de notre propriété et de notre honneur sous la direction de cette autonomie qui établit la supériorité d'une race sur les autres et qui ne ressemblent d'aucune manière à l'autonomie recommendée jadis par la Conférence est, cependant, par suite de la nécessité des temps ou par une autre raison quelconque, en train d'être débattue.

Nous prions que cette humble requête soit prise en sérieuse considération par son

Excellence et qu'elle soit communiquée au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Grande Impératrice avant la décision du prochain Congrès.

Le [illegible] 1878.

(Les Habitants Musulmans de Roumélie.)

No. 351.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 300. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 5, 1878.*

THE Prime Minister says that it is quite impossible for the Porte to make all the arrangements necessary for the exchange of the ratifications of the Treaty of Peace at St. Petersburgh, within the time agreed to by the Turkish Plenipotentiaries at San Stefano, viz., fifteen days from the date of the signature of the Treaty. It will be necessary for the Turkish Government to appoint an Ambassador, and to send him to the Russian capital, and this could with difficulty be done within the time prescribed.

Count Ignatiew, who is to take part in the exchange of ratifications, has not yet left San Stefano, and is not expected to do so before two or three days. Ahmed Vefyk Pasha tells me that representations on this subject have been made to the Grand Duke Nicholas and Count Ignatiew, and that he has reason to hope that the term of fifteen days will not be strictly adhered to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 352.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 312. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 5, 1878.*

I HAVE reason to believe, from secret information which I have received, that amongst the first demands put forward by Russia there was one for the occupation by Russian troops of the village of Beikos, on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus. The proposal was, however, rejected, and was not insisted upon. It will no doubt be denied, if necessary, as in other cases, that it was ever made. Your Lordship is probably aware that the intention of Russia to occupy this position has been long suspected, and that there is reason to believe that shortly before the dethronement of Sultan Abdul Aziz, she had obtained the sanction of the then Grand Vizier, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, to her doing so. A road was at that time commenced between Beikos and Riva, on the Black Sea, where landing-places were constructed at the expense of Abraham Pasha, who has the reputation of being entirely in the interests of Russia, with the view, it was conjectured, of enabling the Russians to disembark troops and to occupy Beikos without passing through the upper part of the Bosphorus.

In recently advancing the left wing of his army to the east of Derkos on the Black Sea towards Belgrade, it has been supposed that the Grand Duke Nicholas had in view the occupation of Kavak and the forts on the European side of the entrance to the Bosphorus. I have done my best to ascertain whether there be any foundation for this suspicion. I availed myself of an opportunity this morning to speak on the subject to the Prime Minister, who gave me the most distinct and positive assurance that the Porte had no reason to believe that any such intention existed on the part of the Russian Commander-in-chief as that attributed to him. His Highness explained the appearance of Cossacks on Saturday last at the villages of Perinjikioi and Pyrgos, and their demand that houses should be prepared for Russian troops, by the difficulties experienced by the Russians in obtaining provisions and fodder, and to the want of accommodation from which the Russian army before Constantinople was suffering, in consequence of the refusal of the Turkish Government to give over to it the Daoud Pasha Barracks close to the city. But His Highness seemed to think that the Russians had no serious intention of occupying either of those villages.

Ahmed Vefyk Pasha's assurances may hold good should peace be finally concluded between Russia and Turkey, and if no other Power interferes in the matter. But if there were, unfortunately, a renewal of war, or if a British fleet were to

attempt to enter the Black Sea, with hostile designs against Russia, Russian troops might within a very few hours possess themselves of Kavak and the forts on the European side of the Bosphorus, and thus interrupt the passage of the Straits.

The Prime Minister appeared to think that the Grand Duke Nicholas and his officers were now very anxious to return to their own country, and that they would endeavour to do so immediately after the exchange of ratifications. According to the terms of the Treaty, His Highness said, the embarkation of Russian troops at Silivria, Rodosto, and elsewhere, would commence as soon as peace was finally concluded. The Grand Duke had explained the advance of the Russian forces from the interior and their concentration on the shores of the Sea of Marmora, as preparatory measures for their removal to Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 353.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 313.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1878.*

THE Prime Minister, who has just returned from the Russian Head-quarters at San Stefano, and whom I have seen, appeared to me to be better satisfied with the situation of affairs. He said that the Russian Plenipotentiaries had no longer insisted upon the surrender of the ironclad fleet, or upon the removal of the non-official Mussulman inhabitants from Bulgaria.

Indeed the General had even maintained that such demands had never seriously been put forward by Russia.

The Terms of Peace, he said, he could not divulge, as he was bound not to do so until the Treaty was signed; but he could tell me that they included the cession of Batoum and the eastern portion of Armenia, and also provided that Bulgaria should extend to the Ægean Sea, and that Bourgas and Media should both be comprehended in its territory.

He further informed me that the Grand Duke Nicholas had given him a formal promise not to enter Constantinople unless the British fleet approached the capital.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 354.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 314.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1878.*

THE very considerable extension of the limits of Bulgaria as proposed by General Ignatiew towards the Ægean, including Dédéagatch and a part of the coast, naturally elicited from the Turkish Plenipotentiaries the objection that this arrangement would altogether prevent communication between Turkey and her western European provinces, and it appears that the General has replied that his Government are willing to allow a military road to be carried across Bulgaria to facilitate the communication referred to.

Such road, however, is to be used exclusively for the conveyance of troops and military stores, which are not to be allowed to remain in the Principality.

The possession of the railway from Mitrovitza to Salonica by Bulgaria, is, I believe, insisted upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 355.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 316. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1878.*

IN my telegram No. 280, I stated that I had been informed that the indemnity of 40,000,000*l.* sterling demanded by Russia had been reduced to 12,000,000*l.* It appears that the Grand Duke Nicholas, on being asked to diminish the very large sum exacted from the Porte, replied that he could not interfere in the matter, but that it was not improbable that, if a direct appeal were made to the Emperor, His Majesty might, as an act of generosity and grace, consent to a reduction of it, and the equivalent in roubles of 12,000,000*l.* sterling, was mentioned as the sum which Turkey could fairly be called upon to pay; but whether the sum was suggested by the Turkish Prime Minister or by the Turkish or Russian Plenipotentiaries, I am unable to say. It seems, however, that Ahmed Vefyk Pasha had understood this a promise had actually been given by the Grand Duke that this reduction should be made, and so informed his colleagues. When this fact came to the knowledge of His Imperial Highness, he appears to have shown considerable irritation against the Prime Minister, whom he accused of having wilfully misrepresented what had passed, declaring that he had neither given any promise nor was in a position to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 356.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 318.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Acting Consul Barker, and Vice-Consuls Blakeney and Odoni, together with an extract of a private letter from Vice-Consul Brophy, reporting upon the state of affairs in their respective Consular districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 356.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a large transport having come here, 2,300 Circassians were embarked, and left yesterday for the coasts of Asia Minor. A Turkish transport has brought here 170 men, convalescent soldiers returning to their homes.

I have received a letter from a M. Merlo, an Italian engineer at Pristina, who relates that before the 11th instant, a massacre of Christians took place in that town, and a certain railway conductor, named Costi Platopoulo, under British protection, was shot by a Turk of Pristina, his head cut off and placed between his legs.

I have to-day seen a trustworthy person, who has just arrived from Pristina, and he related to me what follows:—

The Mussulman inhabitants of the town, on the arrival of 400 Bashi-Bazouks and Albanians, planned the massacre of all the Christians. Houses were sacked, the inmates killed, and the houses burnt. The Vali of Kossova, who resides at Pristina, and who had due notice of the intended massacre, ordered the Commandant of the troops to take measures to prevent it, but he would not; he said his men looked on, though they were well armed and in superior force. At the instance of M. Merlo, the Italian engineer of the Vilayet, who named the matter on the Vali, a Commission was named to investigate and bring the murderers to justice; but the general opinion is, that unless the Porte takes measures to make a striking example, and punish the officers and soldiers who refused to protect the Christian population, more massacres

will be signalled in other parts of this country, when it is found that such acts can be perpetrated with impunity.

Some of the Mussulman inhabitants of Pristina sheltered the Christians, who thus escaped with their lives; but more than 400 are now homeless and destitute, their dwellings having been burnt, and the public will be called upon to feed and relieve them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 356.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Prevesa, February 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the rumour current here last week, that a body of insurgents (300) was marching towards "Plaka," turns out to be a positive fact; and according to a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis, dated 18th instant, four companies of Redifs and 250 irregulars were despatched to that point on the 16th instant, and in the meantime news having reached the authorities at Janina that the insurgents had taken possession of the Bridge of Plaka, a battalion of Mustafizi and three breech-loading guns were despatched thither on the following day. On the same day (17th), several wounded were brought into Janina, which proves that an engagement took place on the 16th or 17th instant, resulting in the capture of the bridge. The exact number of killed and wounded, however, has not been ascertained.

Chimara and Sulli are at present the two points where a rising is expected to take place, and when this happens the greater part of Epirus will be in open revolt. The Turkish ironclad "Mahmoudieh" arrived here yesterday, with two battalions from Constantinople, a great many of the men are, however, unfit to take the field; there are also four cases of small-pox. The disease appears to have broken out during the voyage, for the Captain of the vessel presented a clean bill of health.

I have been assured that the local authorities have taken every precaution to prevent the spreading of the disease. Both battalions were landed here yesterday, but a telegram having reached the authorities during the night, from the Commander at Janina, they are now on the point of starting for Arta, where, it appears, their presence is greatly needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 356.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Gallipoli, le 2 Mars, 1878.*

PENDANT que je me trouvais aujourd'hui chez le Gouverneur en compagnie de Mr. Fife, on lui apporta un papier contenant la déposition faite par Ibraïm Ag Keui, qui venait d'arriver de l'intérieur, de laquelle il résulte que les Rayas, poussés par les Cosaques, ont pillé et saccagé les villages Turcs de Talisman-Keui et Karazacli-Keui, en tuant six hommes, deux femmes, et blessant deux enfants.

Zalil Pasha, actuellement Commandant Militaire des lignes de Boulaïr, qui se trouvait aussi présent à exprimer un profond dégoût pour tout ce que les Rayas font contre les Turcs, de connivence avec les Cosaques: "Je comprends," a-t-il dit, "les mobiles des Russes dans tout ce qui se passe. Ils veulent, dans le cas qu'ils ne puissent actuellement atteindre leur but de chasser tous les Turcs de l'Europe, laisser le germe d'une haine implacable entre les Rayas et les Turcs pour avoir un motif de recommencer leurs intrigues dans un temps relativement court.

"Je ne crois pas cependant," a-t-il ajouté, "que l'Europe continuera à se laisser tromper par les fausses promesses d'un Gouvernement dont le but constant est celui d'arriver un jour à dicter sa loi à l'Europe."

Le Gouverneur Redhad Pacha est tout à fait de la même opinion.

Les Turcs qui sont restés dans les villages des Cazas de Charkeui Kessan, Hafjam,

et Oriaböli sont tellement maltraités que tous ceux qui peuvent le faire s'enfuient vers Gallipoli.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 4 in No. 356.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Bourgas, February* 23, 1878.

FROM the district of Fakki, between here and Kirk Kiliosé, I hear that near Alagünü (wrongly printed Alatimo in the Austrian Staff Map), there are thousands of Turkish and Circassian refugees driven back by the Russians from Kirk Kiliosé, and whose return in this direction is blocked by Bulgarians and Russians; amongst them is (or was, a few days ago), the Tartar Sultan of Slimnia, Ahmet Gheraï Pasha, with four or five hundred Bashi-Bazouks, and two cannon. At any rate it is certain that a good deal of fighting is still going on there, that five days since a hundred Bulgarians and either two or five Russians were killed in an unsuccessful assault upon their camp, which, like that of Attila, is entrenched with carts.

As I understand it, the Bulgarians, knowing that the track of the Turkish fugitives had been marked by blood, plunder, and outrage, determined, when the Russians came amongst them, to take their revenge, and assailed every Mussulman they saw. The latter, knowing that no mercy is to be expected for age or sex, are desperate, and resolved to fight to the last. It is said that 4,000 Russian troops have been sent from Tamboli to the Fakki district, and I trust that it is so, as the tender mercies of the Bulgarians would certainly be cruel in the extreme. However, the Russians here say that Gheraï Pasha, when caught, will be hung as a brigand, and I fear his private character will not bear investigation.

There is great ill-feeling now existing between the Bulgarians and Greeks here; the former now imagine themselves to be "les premiers moutardiers du Pape," and that the whole world of Roumelia is made for them and for them alone; if they should ever possess any real ascendancy over the other Christian races in this country, I am sure that this feeling will be greatly intensified. No one can be more ready than I am to admit the terrible provocation lately received by the Bulgarians of this district, but it is sad to think of the horrible reprisals already committed, and which will still take place, and that part of these acts are not instigated by vengeance, but by desire of plunder, is proved by the fact of Greeks and Armenians being robbed, although they were fellow-sufferers with the Bulgarians in the late exodus of the Mussulmans.

I shall try to go to the Fakki district, though I fear it will be difficult; if I succeed in doing so, I know that I shall have a terrible report to make of villages burnt, ruined, and decimated, and of crimes the balance of which I cannot yet say as being likely to rest with Christian or Mussulman.

No. 357.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 319.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Memorandum which has been given to me by the Porte with reference to the insurrectionary movements in Epirus and Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Memorandum.

LES informations qui nous parviennent de divers côtés et Corfou ne laissent pas de doute sur l'activité croissante déployée par les Comités révolutionnaires dans le but de lancer sur le littoral du Sandjak d'Esgheri, à Chimara, à Diborno, des bandes armées

destinées à mettre le pays en feu. A défaut d'une déclaration de guerre officielle, le Gouvernement Hellénique essaye de faire croire à la spontanéité des mouvements insurrectionnels qu'on signale sur la frontière et de mettre ainsi sa responsabilité à couvert. Cependant personne n'ignore les efforts qu'il fait dans ce sens; les preuves abondent, sur plusieurs points les bandes qui ont franchi la frontière, ou pour mieux dire qui en avaient reçu l'ordre, portaient les uniformes de l'armée régulière Hellénique C'est ainsi que le $\frac{14}{26}$ Février une force armée de 3,000 Hellènes avait pris position sur les collines des environs du couvent de Chaklié, dans le Caza de Karditza. Après un engagement de cinq à six heures les troupes Impériales parvinrent à déloger les bandes des points qu'elles avaient occupés et à les repousser dans les montagnes, en leur infligeant des pertes considérables. Nos pertes se bornent à deux morts et trente blessés.

En Crète aussi on a été dans le cas de signaler dernièrement des mouvements d'une nature analogue. Une bande assez forte ayant attaqué le fort d'Aya, situé à une ou deux heures de distance de la Canée, quatre compagnies de troupes régulières et de Gardes Civiques ayant été dirigées contre elle, dans le combat qui s'en est suivi, deux soldats ont été légèrement blessés et deux Gardes Civiques tués. Les pertes des rebelles sont inconnues. Dans un autre engagement qui a eu lieu à Galata ces derniers ont perdu cinq hommes.

No. 358.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 323. Secret.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 6, 1878.

THE Sultan has urgently requested me to represent to Her Majesty's Government that the presence of the Russian forces at San Stephano is a source of serious danger to himself and to his capital, and he earnestly hopes that Her Majesty's Government will assist him in obtaining their removal as soon as possible. The Grand Duke Nicholas has declared that he will not withdraw his troops from the positions they now occupy, until the British squadron repasses the Dardanelles. His Majesty is, therefore, desirous that it should, if possible, be ordered back to Besika Bay, if it is understood that the Russian forces will leave the vicinity of Constantinople at the same time. I have told His Majesty that I would submit his request to your Lordship, but that I was not in a position to hold out any hope that it would be complied with.

The Sultan fears that there are intrigues going on against him, and that the Russians, knowing his sentiments towards them, may endeavour to remove him from the throne, and place upon it either his brother, or the son of the late Sultan Aziz, both of whom, it is supposed, could be gained completely over to their interests. With this object they might provoke, through their agents, disturbances in the city, and avail themselves of the pretext of protecting the Christians to march into it. This danger will continue to exist, His Majesty thinks, so long as Russian troops occupy San Stephano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 359.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 143. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 5, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 140 and 141 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I asked M. Delyanni yesterday why M. Tricoupi had not proceeded to London on the 28th ultimo. M. Delyanni was rather reserved in his reply. He stated that the Government had desired to send a mission also to St. Petersburgh, and that they had telegraphed to M. Braila, Greek Minister at the Court of Russia, who happened to be at Vienna, to come to Athens to receive instructions, but that he had replied that his health could not permit of a journey to Athens, and that, as M. Braila could not proceed to St. Petersburgh, the

Government had thought it better that M. Tricoupi should not go to London. In the evening, M. de Sabouroff was at my house and spoke to me on this subject. He said that he had only heard on the morning of the 28th ultimo of the proposed mission to London and St. Petersburgh, and that he had at once pointed out objections to them, by stating that, of course, Greece had a perfect right to send missions where she pleased, but that in this case it was, in the first place, doubtful whether, without any previous communications with the Courts of St. James's and St. Petersburgh, the missions in question would be received; and, in the second place, whether, at any rate, they might not fail in their object, as the Envoys might arrive respectively at London and St. Petersburgh at a moment when the Governments of England and Russia might be on the point of "quarrelling." I saw M. Delyanni again the same evening, and I mentioned to him that I now knew from M. de Sabouroff that he had opposed M. Tricoupi's mission to London; and I added, quite unofficially, that not knowing the exact object of the mission to London, I could not offer any opinion upon it, but that I thought, on the whole, it might be of advantage to the Greek Government if M. Tricoupi went to London, as he could then learn by conversation with statesmen in England what was the opinion there on the Eastern question, and that he could dispel any idea in England of Greece being Russian in her feelings, if, indeed, any such idea existed; and, in conclusion, I reminded M. Delyanni that the policy pursued by the Greek Government in 1854 had not been very successful.

The Austrian Minister told me last night that he had urged M. Delyanni, unofficially, to send M. Tricoupi to London at once, and also to send a special Envoy to Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 360.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 145.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of an extract from a letter which reached me this morning from Her Majesty's Consul at Patras, in which he states that some of the prisoners who escaped from the gaol at Pyrgos have been re-arrested, and gives also some interesting and important information as to the return of some volunteers who had gone into Turkey from Greece, and as to their reception by the inhabitants of the village in Turkey to which they proceeded.

Mr. Wood also reports that there is a large force of Greek troops at Cravassera, for whom the Government appear to have much difficulty in providing bread.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Extract.) *Patras, March 4, 1878.*

M. PASQUALIGO writes from Pyrgos, that of the sixty-three prisoners that escaped, about thirty-five had been seized, but none of the worst criminals have been heard of. No volunteers had been raised down there, and here also I do not hear of any more being collected.

Some volunteers returned yesterday from the Turkish province near Cravassera; they are in a wretched plight, and starving. The peasants declared that they did not want them, and told them if, in two hours, they did not withdraw, they would fire on them from the village.

It would therefore seem that the population on that side of the Turkish provinces are not willing to run the risk of being attacked by the Turks, and have to support the insurgents also.

At Cravassera, where a large body of Greek troops is assembled, they can scarcely provide sufficient bread for them. I hear that a very large body of these filibusters have crossed back into Greece, and no end of trouble will be occasioned to the Greek Government by the return of these characters.

No. 361.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 140, 141, and 143 of the 28th February and 5th March respectively, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish Minister at this Court informed me to-day that he had expressed himself to persons in Athens as favourable to the lately proposed mission of M. Tricoupi to London, as he said he thought that M. Tricoupi might be able to convey to his Government useful information, and might, at the same time, assist in London in throwing light upon the state of affairs in Greece (éclaircir la situation).

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 362.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 148. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 92, Confidential, of the 7th ultimo, I have have the honour to report to your Lordship that I yesterday asked Photiadès Bey, the Turkish Minister at this Court, what could, in his opinion, have been M. de Sabouroff's object in urging the Greeks to invade Turkish territory last February. His Excellency replied that he thought M. de Sabouroff expected the negotiations for an Armistice and Peace would not be concluded so soon, and that an invasion of Turkey on the part of the Greeks would be an additional lever to force the Turks to agree to the terms demanded by Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 363.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 149.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 138, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship the desertion of a number of Greek soldiers from the army stationed near the frontier of Epirus, I have the honour to report that the "Sfon" newspaper, of the 3rd instant, states that they have returned to their respective regiments, and that having done so before the expiration of a certain number of days allowed by law, their punishment will be only a disciplinary one.

According to the information which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 146 of the 6th instant, to the inclosed extract from a further letter from Mr. Wood, which reached me this morning, and to a paragraph in the "Ephimeris" newspaper of to-day acknowledging that there are many impediments to an insurrection in Epirus, and calling for more energetic exertions on the part of those concerned, the insurrection does not appear at present to be attended with much success in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

Inclosure in No. 363.

Consul Wood to Mr. Wyndham.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Patras, March 6, 1878.*

A GOOD many of the volunteers, raised here by M. G. Roufos, have returned, stating that the villages on the other side of the frontier refused to receive them.

The Committee for organizing the insurrection arrived at Missolonghi the other

day, and purchased about 500 mules. They only paid the peasants 300 drachmes for each mule, although worth 500 drachmes, so much pressure must have been used by the authorities to bring this about, and doubtless a good profit was made by the purchasers.

No. 364.

The Porte to Musurus Pasha:—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, March 16.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 6 Mars*, 1878.

J'AI reçu la dépêche que votre Excellence a bien voulu écrire au Ministère Impérial le 7 Février, ainsi que la note y annexée, par laquelle Lord Derby demande communication du texte complet des Bases de Paix.

Conformément au désir exprimé par sa Seigneurie, je vous transmets, ci-joint, une copie du Protocole contenant ces bases, et je vous prie de la faire parvenir à Lord Derby.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 365.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 194. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 11*, 1878.

M. DEPRETIS told me yesterday that he had, the day before, a friendly conversation with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, relative to the reported intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina, an event which his Excellency informed Baron Haymerle would be very much regretted by the Italian Government.

M. Depretis said that Baron Haymerle had replied that his Government would always be ready to take into consideration the legitimate interests of Italy, but that they really could not see in what manner the temporary occupation (for Baron Haymerle would not admit the hypothesis of a permanent annexation) of these provinces could be injurious to Italian interests.

To this M. Depretis says he replied that temporary occupations were dangerous experiments, for, with whatever intentions they were undertaken, it was not always easy to limit the time of their duration, and in the present instance, he should be fearful of its ending in permanent annexation. His Excellency instanced, he said, the way in which the partition of Poland was effected.

In this case, M. Depretis said, he told Baron Haymerle that the first reason for which the Italian Government would consider it injurious to the interests of their country, was that it would be a further dismemberment of Turkey. Now the policy of the Italian Government was that Turkey should not be dismembered, but, on the contrary, that an effort should be made by the united representations of the Powers in the Congress to obtain some modification of the delimitations which had been assigned to Bulgaria by Russia, so as to endeavour to strengthen what remains of the Turkish Empire in Europe, and his Excellency stated that he had put it to Baron Haymerle whether he did not think that if such a result could be obtained, it would conduce more to the interests of the Austrian Empire than the adoption of a course which would certainly leave one of the Great Powers at least, Italy, discontented with the policy of Austria.

M. Depretis further informed me that, pursuing this line of argument, he had said to Baron Haymerle, that supposing Austria to renounce this project there would be then united in the Congress, in support of obtaining a modification of the terms exacted by Russia, at least five Powers against two, even supposing, which he had no grounds for doing, that Germany would side with Russia in pressing her extreme demands, viz., Austria, Italy, England, France, and Turkey, who, it might be presumed, was not in favour of her own destruction, and to him (M. Depretis) it appeared that it was impossible that the joint representations of these five Powers should not carry weight with them, but supposing Austria to occupy these provinces, with what right or justification, he inquired, would she be able to raise objections to the

occupation of other parts of Turkey by Russia, or to plead in behalf of a modification of the conditions which Russia had imposed?

M. Depretis told me that he had made all these observations in the most conciliatory tone, that he had distinctly and frequently repeated that Italy had no ambitious views herself, and that the Italian Government wished for the most cordial relations with Austria, and considered those relations to be the foundation of a sound foreign policy. His Excellency added that he had preferred speaking himself in this friendly way to the Austrian Ambassador here, rather than to instruct the Italian Ambassador at Vienna to say anything to Count Andrassy, a course which might possibly excite his Excellency's susceptibility; for, after all, there was nothing as yet official to show that the Austrian Government had the intention attributed to them.

After hearing M. Depretis' account of his conversation with Baron Haymerle, I remarked that I had seen it stated in a recent newspaper telegram that the Porte had no intention of allowing Austria to take peaceful possession of Bosnia, and that she was likely to be supported in her resistance by Russia. Should such turn out to be the case, might we expect, I inquired, to see Italy join such an alliance?

M. Depretis replied that under no circumstances would Italy form an alliance with Russia against Austria. He preferred to arrange the matter we were speaking of by friendly communication with the Austrian Government. The destruction of the Austrian Empire could have but one result, viz., to bring Italy into closer neighbourhood with Russia and Germany, and this was a result which would certainly not conduce to the interests or independence of Italy. Your Lordship will perhaps remember that I ventured to express an opinion in this sense in my despatch No. 167, Most Confidential, of the 26th ultimo.

It was the desire of Italy, M. Depretis continued, to see Austria strong, so that she might act as a sort of buffer between Italy, Germany, and Russia, and therefore, putting aside any objections which on her own account Italy might have to an annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, the Italian Government would deplore it as being calculated to weaken, or even more, to lead eventually to the breaking up of the Austrian Empire.

It was quite idle, His Excellency said, for Austria to suppose she would become the head of a great Slav State; the Slavs would always look to Russia, and if Austria were to annex these provinces they would inevitably become the centre of Russian intrigue; Russia through her agents would play the same game she had been playing in Turkey, fomenting troubles with the end in view of eventually intervening in favour of a persecuted nationality.

I am aware that what M. Depretis, whose Ministry has virtually come to an end, now says is only of relative value, and if I mention it, it is only because I think it may be taken as a fair sample of the general feeling in Italy towards Austria.

The gentleman who has now been charged with the formation of a new Administration, M. Cairoli, is unfortunately one of the few public men in Italy who has been instrumental in agitating the Trentino question, and consequently his name is not calculated to inspire confidence in the sagacity of the foreign policy of Italy under his direction, but it should be remembered that whatever M. Cairoli has done or said on this question, has been when he had not the remotest prospect of coming into office, and that if he now succeeds in forming a Ministry, his ideas may be modified by the responsibility of power.

There is reason to believe, moreover, that the assurance that there would be no change in the foreign policy of Italy, which has been conveyed to foreign Powers as reported in my despatch No. 191 of yesterday's date, has been given at the instance of the King, who, before charging M. Cairoli with the formation of a Ministry, is reported, I have reason to believe correctly, to have made the following three conditions:—1st, that there should be no essential change in the direction of the foreign policy; 2nd, that the Papal Guarantees law should be respected; 3rd, that there should be no organic changes attempted in the Constitution which the King as well as his Parliament had sworn to maintain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 366.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 196. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 11, 1878.*

I YESTERDAY, in execution of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of the 9th instant, informed the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the Kingdom of Greece was justly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress, and that they had signified this opinion to the Greek Government.

In making this communication I observed to M. Depretis that, from the language previously held to me by his Excellency, I could feel no doubt that the Italian Government would give its voice in favour of the admission to the Congress of a representative of Greece.

M. Depretis replied that, personally, he should be in favour of the admission of a Greek representative; but as he was now "démissionaire," he could not take an engagement which might, perhaps, be embarrassing to his successor.

His Excellency added that, in consequence of an appeal made to him by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires on this subject, he had been in communication with Berlin, St. Petersburgh, and Vienna.

The two former were unfavourable to Greece being admitted, the latter undecided. His Excellency said he believed France was also not very favourably disposed on this question.

In reply to my inquiry whether his Excellency would not urge upon his successor to support the present demand of Greece, he said, before giving a promise, he should like to communicate again with the Cabinet of Vienna, and that he would telegraph there again at once.

M. Depretis added, however, that he could not suggest to his successor to support any views of the Greek Government which might entail a further dismemberment of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 367.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 197. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 11, 1878.*

IN a conversation I had a few days ago with Count Tornielli, which related principally to the possible occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria, I thought I remarked a certain change in his manner of expressing himself with regard to Austria from that in which he used to speak on this question.

He said he thought it was quite clear that if Austria did effect this occupation it would be because, for considerations of internal policy, she could not do otherwise. In carrying it out she would have nothing probably to fear from Russia; Germany was urging her to do so, and he did not believe that England had any objection to it. It was not to be supposed that she would be deterred from executing the project solely on account of the objections which Italy might raise.

Now what was the object, he continued, which Austria would have in occupying these provinces, supposing she did so? He presumed that there could be none other than to become possessed of a material guarantee which should counterbalance the preponderance of Russia in Bulgaria and the other Slav provinces.

But it appeared to Count Tornielli that quite as effectual a guarantee could be found for Austria in another shape, and he suggested the idea that, in addition to Bulgaria and the other provinces being placed under an European guarantee of neutrality, power should be delegated to Austria to occupy them in the event of war between the neighbouring States, viz., Russia and Turkey; and in support of this idea he referred to the Treaty of Vienna, according to the XCIInd Article of which the Provinces of Faucigny and Chablais and the territory of Savoy to the north of the Ugine, belonging to the King of Sardinia, were included as part of the neutrality of Switzerland,

and were only to be occupied by Swiss troops in the event of the neighbouring Powers to Switzerland being in a state of open or impending hostility, the troops of the King of Sardinia being withdrawn.

At all events, Count Tornielli said, it would be very hard if diplomacy could not find some means for relieving the Austrian Government from a necessity which they seemed anxious to avoid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 368.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 198. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 12, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed by Count Tornielli that inquiries have recently been made by the Austrian and German Governments as to the views of the Italian Government, relative to the Commission of Inquiry proposed to be instituted by the Khedive into the financial conditions of Egypt, and the reply which has been given by the Italian Government has been that they could be no parties to any kind of Commission of Inquiry the functions of which were to be dependent upon and limited to the good pleasure of the Khedive, and which could, therefore, only end in laying another trap for the credulous.

But at the same time the Italian Government, Count Tornielli said, had expressed the opinion that it was high time some effectual measures were taken to protect the interests of the foreign creditors who had been so fraudulently treated at the hands of the Khedive, and that, therefore, the Italian Government would willingly take part in any inquiry which was calculated to elicit the whole truth, and to lead to some serious and solid results.

Count Tornielli is of opinion that the question of Egyptian finances is certainly one which ought to be brought before the Congress, and he expressed this opinion to the French Ambassador when he came to announce that his Government was opposed to any question being discussed in the Congress which did not naturally and directly arise out of the war.

In a further interview I had with Count Tornielli this morning, he told me that they had just heard from Paris that the French Government expressly stipulated that no question relating to Syria, the Holy Places, or Egypt should be brought forward in the Congress, and he asked me if I had any information as to whether Her Majesty's Government were in favour or adverse to the financial affairs of Egypt being discussed there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 369.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 199. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 12, 1878.*

IN conversations which I have recently had with M. Depretis and Count Tornielli they have both expressed the opinion that, in view of the new delimitation of Bulgaria with ports in both the Black and Ægean Seas, which would virtually belong to Russia, and consequently give that Power command of the Straits and Bosphorus almost as much as if she were in actual possession of them, it would be far more desirable that the Straits and Bosphorus should be opened to the navies of all Powers than that they should remain closed as at present.

I have been anxiously questioned as to whether I was acquainted with the views of Her Majesty's Government on this question, and generally as to their opinion upon the other questions likely to be brought before the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 370.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 201.)

My Lord, *Rome, March 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a note in which, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions (No. 138 of the 9th instant), I have communicated to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs copy of your Lordship's reply to the note of the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, proposing that a Congress should meet at Berlin instead of at Baden-Baden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Enclosure in No. 370.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

M. le Ministre, *Rome, March 12, 1878.*

IN compliance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a reply which the Earl of Derby has returned to a note from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London, proposing that a Congress should meet at Berlin instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 371.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 202. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Rome, March 12, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH I had not your Lordship's permission to do so, I thought your Lordship would have no objection to my informing the Italian Government, according to Mr. Layard's telegram of yesterday's date, that Count Ziehy had been desired to declare categorically that there is no truth in the rumours of the intention of Austria to enter and take possession of Bosnia, and I accordingly acquainted Count Tornielli with this fact in an interview I had with him this morning, M. Depretis not having arrived at the Ministry.

Count Tornielli expressed his thanks for this information, which it gave him great satisfaction to hear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 372.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 244.)

My Lord, *Paris, March 15, 1878.*

THE German Ambassador communicated to M. Waddington this afternoon a proposal from his Government that, before the meeting of the projected Congress, preliminary Conferences should be held at Berlin for the purpose of settling the programme of the Congress, the formalities to be observed, and so forth. The Powers would be represented in these Conferences by the second Plenipotentiaries at the Congress or by the resident Ambassadors, and I understand that it is hoped that, in this manner, time would be saved, and that, when the Congress actually meets, the points for discussion would be clearly defined.

M. Waddington, whom I saw immediately after Prince Hohenlohe left him, told me that he had at once observed to the Prince that he took it for granted that there was no intention of attempting the solution of any questions in these Conferences, that, this being so, for his own part he did not see any objection to the proposal, but that he would consult his colleagues at the Cabinet Council to be held to-morrow, and hoped then to be able to give a definite answer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 373.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 16.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, le 15 Mars, 1878, soir.*

POUR vous donner une idée autant que possible exacte de ce que se passe dans les provinces limitrophes de la Turquie je n'ai qu'à vous communiquer le télégramme suivant que le chef de nos troupes concentrées vers la frontière de la Grèce occidentale vient d'adresser au Gouvernement du Roi.

Voici le télégramme precité : "Des familles Chrétiennes du village Troustena, situé dans le territoire Turc, ne pouvant pas souffrir les méfaits de toute sorte que des Lapides, militaires Turcs, leur infligeaient, en leur enlevant leur bétail et leur fortune, et en n'épargnant pas même l'honneur de leurs femmes, quittèrent toutes le susdit village; les femmes emportèrent tout ce qu'elles avaient pu sauver de leurs biens, les hommes conduisant les bestiaux qui leur avaient été laissés, prirent les armes et se réfugièrent hier dans l'après midi dans le territoire Hellénique, après s'être opiniatrement combatues contre les deux stations Turques du Monastère qu'ils rencontrèrent en leur chemin.

(Signé) "SAPAMZALUI."

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 71.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 16, 1878.*

THE United Sub-Committees of the Hungarian Delegations agreed yesterday to the following resolution:—

"In the event that the further development of affairs in the East shall, for the more energetic defence of the interests of the Monarchy, make the mobilization of the armed force of Austria-Hungary a matter of inevitable and urgent necessity, the Common Imperial Ministry shall be empowered, whilst claiming without delay the legitimate co-operation of the Constitutional Representative bodies, by intermediary agreement with the Governments of the two divisions of the Empire, to make the necessary expenditure for such mobilization to the extent of sixty millions upon their own responsibility. The raising of this sum must be effected by Constitutional means. The Sub-Committee of the Austrian Delegations yesterday approved a resolution in favour of the Vote of Credit by a majority of eleven to nine. This resolution will have to be submitted to the United Sub-Committees.

No. 375.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 72.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 16, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Vice-Consul at Fiume, dated to-day:—

"I am informed Russia tries to obtain permission for exportation of twenty-four Whitehead torpedoes. Ambassador is working at Vienna, as Hungary refuses consent."

I have informed Count Andrassy, and expressed the hope that the permission will not be granted.

No. 376.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

I HAVE asked Count Schouvaloff to try and procure a positive reply in writing from Prince Gortchakow, whether the Russian Government agree to the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government require to be assured before entering Congress, or stated in my communications to Austrian Government of the 9th, 12th and 13th instant.

No. 377.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 6·5 P.M.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 16, 1878, 3·50 P.M.

M. DEPRETIS informs me that the German Ambassador yesterday made a verbal communication to the following effect:—

The German Government accepts the proposal for a Congress at Berlin, but, before sending invitations, thinks it would be desirable that the Governments should agree to a preliminary discussion between the Second Plenipotentiaries or the resident Ambassadors respecting the conditions on which a Conference should meet. The questions to be resolved by them would be those of form and procedure, the first of all being that in regard to the election of the President, in case Prince Bismarck could not either at all or at any time fulfil those functions.

M. Depretis says that he has been asked for an immediate answer, and wishing to give the same as Her Majesty's Government, asked me if I had heard anything on the subject.

As I could (? give) him no information, his Excellency said that, being bound to answer at once, he had spoken to M. Cairoli, and that the reply he should send would be that, if the preliminary discussion was confined simply and entirely to questions of form and procedure, he had no objection to offer. He hoped that his having spoken to me about this might be considered strictly confidential.

No. 378.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 6·5 P.M.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 16, 1878, 4·10 P.M.

I HAVE been again asked by M. Depretis if I have received instructions relative to policy of Her Majesty's Government in reference to principal questions to be discussed in the Congress. He mentioned especially delimitations of Bulgaria, how extension of Slav element was to be opposed, and Straits. He says that his successor will be probably in office in a day or two, and if the two Governments are to act together in Congress it is indispensable that Italian Government should know beforehand the views of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 379.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 16, 1878, 4·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 3, Minister for Foreign Affairs says that his answer to the German Ambassador, which will be communicated this afternoon, is that French Government accepts Preliminary Conference on three conditions:—

1. That proceedings are purely preparatory, and comprehend no solution of questions.

2. That the French reservations respecting Egypt, Syria, and Holy Places are embodied in documents to be signed by the members of the Conference.

3. That all the Powers agree to German proposal.

No. 380.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 16, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March* 16, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs requests me to say that he hopes that Her Majesty's Government will accept German proposal for Preliminary Conference, and would be glad if your Lordship would communicate their decision to him through me as soon as you are able.

No. 381.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878, 7 P.M.

COUNT MÜNSTER has communicated to me a telegram from Prince Bismarck suggesting that without waiting until the Powers have arrived at an agreement on the preliminary conditions of the meeting of the Congress there should be a Preliminary Conference of Second Plenipotentiaries or of Representatives at Berlin to initiate discussions.

I have told Count Münster that I see no advantage in the Preliminary Conference so far as the question is concerned of the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government will enter Congress. They could not hold out the expectation that they would be induced by any amount of discussion to alter their decision in this respect.

As to the expediency of a Preliminary Conference generally Her Majesty's Government doubted its usefulness, but preferred to wait for further explanations as to questions intended to be dealt with in this matter, and why it was thought better not to reserve them for the Congress.

No. 382.

The Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff.

Dear Count Schouvaloff, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878.

ON the 9th of this month, I wrote to Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government considered that it would be desirable to have it understood in the first place, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

A copy of this note to Count Beust was forwarded to Lord Augustus Loftus, with instructions to communicate it to your Government.

On the 12th I told Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points mentioned in my note of the 9th, before they can definitively agree to go into Congress, and on the 13th I further explained the first condition as follows:—

"Her Majesty's Government must distinctly understand, before they can enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers, and what do not."

Lord Augustus Loftus was also informed of this.

We have not yet had an answer from your Government, whether they agree to the conditions of Her Majesty's Government.

There seems to be some question as to the channel of communication, and I should be glad if you would try and procure a positive reply from Prince Gortchakow in writing, so that Her Majesty's Government may be no longer in uncertainty as to the competence of the Congress to deal with the entire Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 383.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 145.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878.

THE German Ambassador called on me this day, and asked for an answer to the communication which he had made yesterday as to the expediency of holding a preliminary Conference at which the course of procedure of the Congress should be settled. I told his Excellency that so far as related to the question immediately before us, namely, the competence of the Congress to discuss any part that it might think fit of the Russo-Turkish Treaty, I saw no advantage in the preliminary Conference which was proposed. Her Majesty's Government had publicly and frequently expressed their determination not to go into Congress unless this point were conceded, and I could not hold out the expectation that they would be induced, by any amount of discussion, to alter their decision. As regarded the question of a preliminary Conference generally, I was not in a position to express a positive opinion, though much inclined to doubt its probable usefulness. On that subject I should prefer to wait for further explanations as to what were the questions intended to be dealt with in this manner, and why it was thought better not to reserve them for the meeting of the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 384.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 202.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a telegram from Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff,* which was left with me on the 14th instant by Count Schouvaloff, respecting the communication of the text of the Preliminary Treaty of Peace to the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 385.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 203. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878.

THE Austrian Ambassador read to me confidentially this afternoon a telegram from Count Andrassy, of which the purport is as follows:—

The Russian Ambassador at Vienna has communicated to the Austrian Government a telegram from Prince Gortchakow in the same terms as that shown to me by Count Schouvaloff on the 14th instant, of which a copy is inclosed in my despatch No. 202 of to-day's date.

Count Andrassy thinks that this communication is calculated to put an end to any hesitation on the part of England and to satisfy Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency adds that as soon as the Austrian Government are informed that Her Majesty's Government have no further objections to offer, the convocation of the Congress may take place at once, but that Germany will not issue the invitations until informed that England has given up her objections.

I told Count Beust that the communication from Prince Gortchakow quoted in the telegram he had read had already reached me through Count Schouvaloff, and that with reference to the last part of Count Andrassy's message, it seemed hardly necessary, after a conversation which I had had with him yesterday (when I fully explained the views of Her Majesty's Government on the subject) to point out that this Russian declaration did not meet the objection raised by Her Majesty's Government. The Treaty, it was now said, was to be laid before us, but were we free to discuss all its Articles? On that point nothing was stated.

* No. .

Count Beust replied that he quite understood the view taken here, and had already explained it to his Government, but that this telegram had evidently been sent off before the receipt of his communication on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 386.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 219.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 16, 1878.

ON the 9th of this month I wrote to Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government considered that it would be desirable to have it understood, in the first place, that all questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey should be considered as subject to be discussed in the Congress, and that no alteration in the condition of things previously established by Treaty should be acknowledged as valid until it has received the assent of the Powers.

A copy of this note to Count Beust was forwarded to your Excellency, with instructions to communicate it to the Russian Government.

On the 12th I told Count Beust that Her Majesty's Government must be perfectly clear on the points mentioned in my note of the 9th before they can definitively agree to go into Congress, and on the 13th I further explained the first condition as follows:—

"Her Majesty's Government must distinctly understand, before they can enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the several Powers and what do not." Your Excellency was also informed of this.

We have not yet had an answer from the Russian Government whether they agree to the conditions of Her Majesty's Government. There seems to be some question as to the channel of communication; and I have informed Count Schouvaloff that I should be glad if he would try and procure a positive reply from Prince Gortchakow in writing, so that Her Majesty's Government may be no longer in uncertainty as to the competence of the Congress to deal with the entire Treaty.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 387.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 207.)

My Lord, *Rome, March* 14, 1878.

IN view of the impending change in the Italian Ministry, I have thought it advisable to place on official record the communication which, as reported in my confidential despatch No. 196 of the 11th instant, I made the previous day verbally to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, viz., that I had received your Lordship's instructions to inform the Italian Government that Her Majesty's Government, having been appealed to by the Government of Greece, are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress, and that Her Majesty's Government have signified this opinion to the Greek Government.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the note which I have addressed to M. Depretis for this purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 387.

Sir A. Paget to M. Depretis.

Rome, March 14, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

I THINK it advisable to place on official record a communication which I had the honour to make to your Excellency verbally on the 10th instant, viz., that I have been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform His Italian Majesty's Government that Her Majesty's Government, having been appealed to by the Government of Greece, are of opinion that the Greek Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress, and that Her Majesty's Government have signified this opinion to the Greek Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 388.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 248.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 16, 1878.

M. CALLIMAKI-CATARGI, the Roumanian Agent, called upon me to-day, and placed in my hands a note, inclosing a document containing the arguments on which his country relies for refusing to cede to Russia the districts which bear the name of Roumanian Bessarabia.

I have the honour, in accordance with M. Callimaki-Catargi's request, to transmit to your Lordship herewith this document, together with a copy of the note which accompanies it.

M. Callimaki-Catargi stated to me that the question was one of vital importance to his country, and he expressed the hope that it would engage the earnest attention of the Congress which is expected to meet shortly at Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 388.

M. Catargi to Mr. Adams.

M. le Ministre,

Agence Princière de Roumanie, Paris, le 16 *Mars*, 1878.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine a été informé déjà de l'émotion et des alarmes qu'avait causées en Roumanie, la demande de retrocession de la Bessarabie formulée par la Russie. Il n'ignore pas non plus le refus qui a été opposé à cette demande.

Le Gouvernement Roumain croit devoir, maintenant, exposer dans un court Mémoire, les arguments d'ordre historique, politique et économique sur lesquels, en fidèle interprète du sentiment national, solennellement manifesté par le vote des Chambers du 27 Janvier/8 Février dernier, il fonde ce refus pour recourir à la justice des Puissances. Dans sa pensée ce Mémoire est destiné à fixer l'attention du prochain Congrès sur une question d'une importance capitale pour la Roumanie.

Mon Gouvernement m'ayant chargé de faire parvenir ce document au Cabinet Britannique, je viens vous prier de vouloir bien me servir d'intermédiaire auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté qui, j'ose espérer, ne refusera pas à mon pays, dans ces graves circonstances, son généreux appui.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) CALLIMAKI-CATARGI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 388.

Mémoire.

PLUSIEURS notes diplomatiques, et même des ouvertures directes et officielles, ont révélé au Gouvernement Roumain le projet du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie de

revendiquer les districts qui portent le nom de Bessarabie Roumaine. A titre de compensation, la Dobroudja serait annexée à la Roumanie.

Le Cabinet de Bucarest, fidèle interprète des sentiments unanimes de la nation, doit au pays et se doit à lui-même de se prononcer énergiquement contre cet échange, dont la répudiation se fonde sur les raisons suivantes :

La rectification de frontières en Bessarabie, stipulée par le Traité de 1856, et le retour à la Principauté de Moldavie d'une portion de son ancien territoire sur la rive gauche du Danube, avaient pour but la satisfaction d'un double intérêt d'ordre public Européen :—

1. Assurer la libre navigation d'un fleuve, qui forme la principale artère commerciale de l'Europe Centrale, en confiant la garde de ses embouchures à un pays d'importance secondaire, dont la constante déférence aux intentions des Puissances était par là même certaine ;

2. Mettre les Principautés Roumaines, grâce à la restitution partielle d'une province qui leur avait anciennement appartenu, en mesure de remplir, selon les exigences de la topographie et les nécessités économiques, la mission qui leur était dévolue, du consentement et au profit de l'Europe entière.

L'heureuse transformation des Principautés et la prospérité toujours grandissante du commerce Danubien depuis 1856 témoignent de l'efficacité des dispositions concertées à cette époque.

Quelques détails mettront en lumière l'exactitude de ces affirmations.

L'histoire montre que l'activité commerciale des peuples riverains du Danube s'est ralentie ou s'est développée en proportion directe de l'accroissement ou de la diminution de leur contact immédiat avec le fleuve.

Les Traités de 1812 et de 1829 avaient livré à la Russie d'abord le territoire Moldave d'au-delà du Pruth, puis le Delta tout entier du Danube. Il est vrai que des réserves expresses stipulaient en faveur des nations riveraines la libre navigation du fleuve, et que la neutralisation des parages voisins des embouchures résultait pratiquement de certaines interdictions édictées par ces Traités. Cependant le mouvement du commerce sur le Bas Danube, comme frappé de torpeur, devient timide à l'excès. Il ne reprit l'énergie de son expansion et la liberté de son essor qu'après le Traité de 1856.

L'examen attentif de l'influence exercée par l'extension ou l'amoindrissement du territoire des Principautés Danubiennes, non-seulement sur leur état économique individuel, mais aussi sur l'ensemble du trafic Européen par le Danube, permet de constater les revirements soudains, les brusques fluctuations amenées par les changements de domination sur la rive gauche du fleuve. Ainsi la Moldavie est tombée dans le plus triste affaissement par suite de la perte de la Bessarabie en 1812, tandis qu'en 1830 la Valachie a retiré de la récupération des villes et territoires de Braila, Giorgevo, et Turno, les plus précieux avantages.

La possession normale et sans entraves de la rive gauche du fleuve, depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à son embouchure, non pas avec des bandes de terrain d'apparence spécieuse et de réalité précaire, mais avec les districts qui donnent à cette possession sa valeur utile, a toujours eu comme corollaire presque mathématique pour la Roumanie un élan rapide et continu de son commerce, de son industrie, et de sa culture intérieure.

Au contraire, quand les territoires riverains ont été distraits de leur domination, les Principautés ont éprouvé des perturbations profondes, non moins funestes à leurs propres intérêts qu'aux intérêts connexes de l'Europe.

Aussi les divers Gouvernements Roumains, tour à tour bénéficiaires ou victimes des modifications accomplies, ont-ils témoigné leur plus vive gratitude envers les Puissances, quand les instruments politiques, généraux ou isolés, relatifs à l'affranchissement et à l'intégrité du sol Roumain, assuraient sa prospérité, ou se sont-ils sentis douloureusement atteints, lorsqu'ils voyaient morceler une propriété, dont la légitimité reposait sur le droit historique et sur le droit naturel.

C'est ainsi que le Protocole du 6 Janvier, 1857, qui, réduisant les bienfaits de l'œuvre de 1856, a soustrait à la Moldavie le Delta du Danube pour l'annexer à l'Empire Ottoman, a soulevé les justes plaintes des Roumains.

Ce Protocole lésait gravement les intérêts locaux et de plus annihilait les effets salutaires du principe logique qui s'était proposé de garantir la neutralité du Bas Danube, en conférant aux Principautés Roumaines la garde de ce débouché du commerce Européen.

Depuis lors jusqu'à ce jour la Roumanie a périodiquement renouvelé ses réclamations à ce sujet, et le déni persistant de justice auquel elle s'est toujours heurtée a été une des causes principales des derniers événements survenus entre la Principauté Roumaine et la Turquie.

La Russie, à qui la Valachie reconnaissante doit la suppression des forteresses Turques de la rive gauche, a pu apprécier, depuis le Traité d'Ackermann, quelles étaient pour les Principautés les conditions les plus propices d'existence et de développement, et quelle importance capitale présentait pour elles la libre possession des rives du Danube.

Cet acte d'équité et de prudence politique, précurseur des idées qui ont sans doute inspiré les signataires du Traité de Paris, a remédié en partie au malaise où languissaient les Principautés, depuis que les armées Ottomanes s'étaient installées à demeure dans les forteresses Valaques du Danube, et depuis que la Bessarabie fut tout à coup et pour la première fois détachée de la Moldavie en 1812.

Il est juste de convenir que depuis lors les Traités d'Ackermann, d'Andrinople et de Paris ont amélioré en partie la situation des Principautés et ont marqué successivement pour elles des étapes mémorables dans la voie de la civilisation et du progrès. Aussi la Roumanie, instruite par sa laborieuse expérience et par la bienfaisante générosité de l'Europe, attache-t-elle un prix éminent au maintien de ses frontières actuelles, que rendrait complètes et normales la restitution du Delta du Danube.

L'échange présentement offert serait essentiellement préjudiciable à la Principauté.

Il suffit en effet d'examiner la configuration des lieux pour se convaincre que la perte de la rive Bessarabienne rendrait pénible et onéreux au Gouvernement Roumain le maintien sous sa dépendance de la Dobroudja, qu'un large fleuve sépare du corps du pays, et avec laquelle l'autorité centrale n'aurait d'autre communication que les marais impraticables situés en aval de Calarasi et jusqu'à Braïla.

A n'envisager donc que cette face de la question, à ne consulter, en dehors de toute autre considération d'histoire, de droit et de politique générale, que les intérêts matériels, économiques et administratifs du pays, il appert que l'abandon de la Bessarabie Roumaine entraînerait pour toute la Roumanie les plus fâcheux résultats, puisque l'acquisition de la Dobroudja ne serait plus, dès la perte de la rive gauche du Danube, véritable et seule chef de la rive correspondante, qu'un embarras, une charge et peut-être un danger à titre permanent.

Est-il vrai que le déplacement de la domination Roumaine sur la portion terminale du Danube inaugurerait au profit de la Roumanie une ère plus belle en lui remettant la garde exclusive des bouches du fleuve, dont le caractère de neutralité absolue serait à nouveau et rigoureusement confirmé ?

Une faveur aussi restreinte, une garantie pour la neutralisation du Danube organisée dans de telles conditions ne seraient qu'illusoires, car il est manifeste que la possession de la rive gauche entre Reni et Ismaïl, à l'endroit où la ramification n'est pas encore commencée, met la circulation du fleuve à l'entière discrétion de toute Grande Puissance militaire établie sur cette rive.

N'est-ce pas là le motif de sagace circonspection qui a déterminé l'Europe à réviser et à rectifier en 1857 le premier travail de la Commission Internationale chargée, en vertu du Traité de 1856, de fixer les nouvelles limites entre la Moldavie et la Bessarabie Russe ? N'est-ce pas afin de fermer toute communication avec le Danube par le Lac de Tatpuk que la décision des Puissances a attribué à la Roumanie Bolgrad et Tabak ?

La modification actuellement projetée et proposée destituerait donc la Roumaine des moyens d'action rigoureusement indispensables tant à son développement matériel qu'à l'accomplissement régulier de la mission d'ordre public qui lui a été réservée.

Il y aurait à tout le moins imprudence de la part du Gouvernement Roumain à devenir maître des bouches du Danube et à assumer la responsabilité de leur garde, sans avoir comme base la rive Bessarabienne, dont la domination légitime lui permettrait seule de défendre avec efficacité les annexes dont la possession lui reviendrait.

La prévision, trop justifiée par l'étude impartiale du passé, d'un ralentissement certain dans le mouvement du commerce Danubien est, aux yeux de la Roumanie, une menace trop redoutable pour que tous ses efforts ne tendent pas à la dissiper. Détruire ou compromettre la sécurité de la libre circulation du fleuve, c'est paralyser ou entraver le développement progressif de l'État Roumain. Les données éloquentes de la statistique et les notions irrécusables de la topographie concourent à démontrer la justesse de cette assertion.

A côté de ces arguments purement économiques se placent des considérations majeures de l'ordre politique.

La perte de la Bessarabie, après les sacrifices de sang et d'argent, en retour desquels la Roumanie espérait une meilleure récompense, la perte de la Bessarabie au lendemain de la proclamation d'indépendance, produirait dans le pays une commotion dont les suites pourraient devenir désastreuses. Il appartient à l'Europe, si soucieuse de rendre stable une paix appelée par les vœux et les besoins de tous, d'écarter le péril de nouveaux troubles en Orient.

Tel est l'aspect de la question que le Gouvernement Roumain tient surtout à signaler à la bienveillante attention et à la perspicacité éclairée des Cabinets Européens.

Son plus cher désir est de conserver loyalement et de remplir dignement le poste d'honneur qui lui a été assigné à l'embouchure du grand canal par lequel s'effectue le commerce de l'Europe centrale avec l'Orient.

C'est donc un devoir impérieux pour le Cabinet de Bucarest de déclarer aux Puissances qui en 1856 ont eu foi dans la nation Roumaine que, dans la position nouvelle récemment créée à la Roumanie par ses vaillants sacrifices, la possession de la Bessarabie et du Delta Danubien peut seule consolider la Principauté dans son indépendance. Par là serait assuré un succès réel à l'accomplissement de la mission qui lui a été confiée en 1856, par la prévoyante libéralité de l'Europe, à savoir la garde énergique et fidèle de la libre navigation du Bas-Danube.

Bucarest, le 25 Février (9 *Mars*), 1878.

No. 389.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 251.)

My Lord, *Paris, March* 16, 1878.

M. WADDINGTON told me this afternoon that he was expecting the German Ambassador to call for the answer of the French Government to the proposal made by the German Government, that preliminary Conferences should be held in Berlin, as reported in my despatch No. 244 of yesterday.

M. Waddington said that the French Government was ready to accept the German proposal, upon three conditions:—

1. That the Conferences should be purely preliminary, and that there should be no attempt at the solution of any of the questions which might be brought forward.

2. That the reservations of France, respecting Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Places, already accepted by the Powers, should be embodied in the Protocol, or other document to be signed by the Plenipotentiaries who participated in these Conferences.

3. That all the Powers who were to be invited to the Congress at Berlin should, without exception, agree to the German proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 390.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 252. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, March* 16, 1878.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch, M. Waddington begged me to express to your Lordship confidentially his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would be able to give their assent to the German proposal that preliminary Conferences should be held at Berlin, and he requested me to ask your Lordship to be kind enough to communicate to him through me the decision of Her Majesty's Government as soon as you were able to do so.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 391.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 17.)

(No. 308. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1878.

I SAW Sultan this morning. A Council was sitting at the Palace to consider the demand of the Grand Duke Nicholas to send his troops to Buyukderé to embark for Russia. Sultan resolutely opposed it, and was determined to refuse. Decision will be communicated to Grand Duke to-morrow. Porte at the same time offers every facility

and help for embarking his troops at San Stefano and other ports actually in Russian occupation. It is suspected that Russians wish to possess themselves of Buyukderé and Kavak, and have already, it is stated, two torpedo-launches and a number of torpedoes at former place. Admiral Hornby saw one launch there on Thursday. Sultan proposes to send troops to occupy heights above Bosphorus as soon as ratifications are exchanged. Should Russians occupy Buyukderé they surround Constantinople entirely, besides commanding the Bosphorus.

Grand Duke Nicholas states that embarkation of Guards will commence on 26th instant, and that they are to go to Kieff; and that, in the instructions he has received from St. Petersburgh, he is ordered to remain where he is and "to defend the Bosphorus." French Ambassador has this from French Military Attaché at Russian head-quarters.

No. 392.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 16, 1878.

I AM informed that there are many Russian naval officers at San Stefano, and Consul Blunt states that about 500 sailors, with torpedoes, recently passed through Adrianople.

No. 393.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 310.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 16, 1878.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS still insists upon public visit to Sultan, accompanied by Prince and Generals, and return visit at the German Embassy. Sultan, owing to state of health and the distress from which he is suffering, is most anxious to avoid this, but is willing to receive only in private, or only accompanied by staffs; however, the alternatives His Majesty has proposed have hitherto been rejected. My French and Austrian colleagues and myself have expressed opinions against acceding to demand of Grand Duke to pass through Constantinople and suburbs on horseback with great retinue, which may have the effect of humiliating Sultan, and might provoke demonstrations against him in his own capital.

No. 394.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 16, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador told Austrian Government that the complete text of the Treaty will be communicated as soon as ratifications are exchanged.

Count Andrassy hopes that if a similar declaration is made to your Lordship it may suffice to remove objections of Her Majesty's Government to taking part in the Congress.

No. 395.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 16, 1878.

PERMISSION asked by Russia to export torpedoes from Fiume has been refused.

No. 396.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord,

Tiflis, January 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that General Franchini returned to Tiflis a few days ago.

His mission to the Court of Tehran was, I understand, undertaken with the view of inducing the Persians to take up arms against the Turks. The Shah, it appears, was, if anything, in favour of the Russian proposals, but the Ministers and people being adverse, and no preparations made, the scheme fell through. Nevertheless the General was so far successful that he prevented a mass of Persian Kurds from taking part with the Turks.

He took with him to Tehran coin to the value of 200,000*l.* sterling. He has now been replaced by Colonel Zelenoy, and the latter will no doubt continue to carry on the work inaugurated by Franchini so long as matters remain unsettled between Russia and the Porte.

A number of Russian officers are engaged on a survey of the north of Persia, and the sights taken are being forwarded to Tiflis, where a map of those parts is now in process of construction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 397.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord,

Tiflis, February 5, 1878.

FIFTEEN thousand troops, chiefly 19th Division, have lately left Igdyr for Van, where they will probably remain until the roads are opened so far as to permit a march being made on Erzeroum.

Typhus is raging at Igdyr, Hassan Kaleh, Erivan, Kars, Alexandropol, Arslahan, Tiflis, and, indeed, in all parts where the troops have passed or been located in any numbers.

The garrison of Kars now consists of the 1st Division of Grenadiers.

There are various reports as regards the surrender of Kars. Some say that a large sum was paid on this account to a certain Kiverki, the Turkish Treasurer at Kars; and others, that gold boxes having the Emperor's portrait inside, set in diamonds, were distributed as presents among the notables of that town. It would seem, then, that bribery was employed for the purpose of obtaining possession of this fortress. Whether Hami Pasha was implicated or not in this affair it is not easy to say, but in view of the fact that he left Kars with 8,000 men, and refused to bring them into action, though repeatedly called on to do so by Hussein Bey, chief of the Artillery, it is reasonable to suppose that he was not altogether without some knowledge of what passed between the Treasurer aforesaid and the Russians.

It is also not unlikely that a large sum was distributed among the townspeople who had charge of the fort of Hafiz Pasha, and who deserted their posts at the commencement of the attack. Hussein Bey, who is now at Tiflis, is also known, after the taking of Kars, to have made a present of a horse to the Grand Duke.

The town of Kars was given up to plunder for the space of three days; during this time the shops were broken into, much property stolen and destroyed, many women were violated, and some children were killed; but this is not all, for I am assured that many of the Cossacks amused themselves in cutting off the noses of the prisoners intrusted to their charge, and also that many of these latter were wantonly killed by those Cossacks who had not been in action, and who were desirous of testing the force and sharpness of their sabres.

An attack was made on the 30th ultimo, on the fortress of Yekisdero, near Batoum, and also on the passes near Artwin; both attempts were unsuccessful, the Russians having lost at the former place 1,800 men, 45 officers, and 4 guns, and at the latter some 800 men.

An order has just been issued, calling out all the militia in the Caucasus, and 900 persons have been enrolled in the district of Tiflis.

A Cossack regiment arrived from Vladikaskas, and marched directly to Van.

The recruits have, I am told, ceased coming.
180 ammunition waggons have also been lately despatched for Van.
The number of casualties up to the end of January are—

Russian, who have died between 1st December and end of January	9,000
Number of wounded in hospital	9,095
" sick "	29,400
	48,095
Killed and wounded at Yelisabet and Artwin	2,000
	50,095
Leaving fit for duty about	80,000
Number of Turks who have died in Russian hospitals between same dates ..	2,872
Number of wounded in hospital	1,399
" sick "	5,422
Total	9,693

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have been informed that the hospital at Kars was fired into by the Russian infantry, and that the doctors and apothecaries were all robbed and stripped of their clothing.

Further, that a certain Huja Tur, employed in the Treasury department of Kars, and Mehemet Bey, one of the notables of that town, were the paid spies of the Russian Government.

G. T. R.

No. 398.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 291. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 4, 1878.

I WAS informed to-day by a person who had just seen Prince Gortchakow that he had stated that the Imperial Government had only received by telegraph "fragments" of the Treaty signed with Turkey on the preceding day, and that the full text will be sent by General Ignatieff, before whose arrival here in eight or ten days the conditions of the peace cannot be officially made known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 399.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 293.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 4, 1878.

I HEAR from an authentic, but not an official source, that some pressure has been exercised by Prince Gortchakow on Prince Bismarck to induce him to consent to the meeting of the Conference at Berlin, and to accept the presidency of it, and that after some hesitation Prince Bismarck has agreed to the Russian proposal.

The assent of the Austrian Government has been asked, but no answer has been yet received from Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 400.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 299.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 10, 1878.

A COURT was held by their Imperial Majesties, on Sunday last, to receive felicitations on the anniversary of the birthday of the Cesarevitch, which was attended by the foreign Representatives and the members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Emperor, after shaking hands with me, observed that it appeared to him that Her Majesty's Government had not sufficiently taken account ("n'ont pas suffisamment tenu compte") of my report of the interview with His Majesty at Livadia, and His Majesty expressed his regret at the distrust which existed in England in regard to Russia.

His Majesty said that it had always been his wish, and it was his anxious desire, to maintain the most friendly relations with England, and he would deeply regret any possible rupture of them.

His Majesty expressed his hope that the Congress would offer the means of a satisfactory arrangement. It was his ardent desire.

I had no opportunity of replying to His Majesty's first observations, and merely observed that the gravity of the questions at issue, the high reputation of the statesmen who would take part in the Congress, and the pacific dispositions of all concerned, ought to be a guarantee for the success of their deliberations. "Espérons-le," observed His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 401.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 301.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March* 11, 1878.

AT the Court held to-day, the Emperor said to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires that he hoped the agitation would calm down in Greece, and that nothing would occur to cause fresh complications.

On approaching Prince Ghika, the Roumanian Agent, the Emperor drew up, and, without offering his hand, which he had done to all the other Diplomatic Representatives, said, in a severe tone, the following words, which I have received since addressing to your Lordship my telegram of this date:—"Je voudrais bien que la Roumanie se souvienne des services immenses que la Russie lui a rendus et du sang qu'elle a versé pour elle. Il me semble qu'elle l'oublie trop facilement."

The Emperor withdrew without Prince Ghika being able to address to His Majesty any reply.

Prince Ghika informs me that the feeling of resentment against Russia in Roumania is very great, and that the Roumanian Government are fully determined not to yield except under force. He observed to me that it was indispensable for Roumania to demonstrate to Russia her independence, even at the cost of bloodshed; adding, that should it come to that extremity, it would establish hereafter an imperishable barrier between Russia and the Roumanian nation.

I have reason to believe that the wish for the retrocession of the Bessarabian territory to Russia originates entirely with the Emperor, and that it is dictated by a feeling of filial piety towards his father. At first Prince Gortchakow used all his influence to dissuade the Emperor from urging this claim, but finding that his endeavours were fruitless, is now resigned to conform to the Imperial will.

I am told that it was proposed to the Emperor as a means of satisfying the Imperial conscience that the retrocession should take place, and that the Emperor should then give back the territory ceded to Roumania; thus, as it were, wiping out the cession made by the Treaty of 1856. But the Emperor declined any arrangement, and holds implicitly to the terms agreed upon in the Treaty with Turkey.

His Majesty is said to have replied to the proposal, that he could not surrender a territory which was sacred to Russia in memory of the Russian blood shed at the famous siege of Ismail under Souwaroff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 402.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 303. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 11, 1878.*

I AM informed, from an authentic source, that a telegram was received on Friday from Count Schouvaloff, inquiring whether the whole Treaty between Russia and Turkey, or merely those portions affecting European interests, were to be submitted to the decision of an European Congress.

My informant stated that Prince Gortchakow had, in reply to this inquiry, telegraphed to Count Schouvaloff, that Russia having made the concession to Europe of submitting those portions of the Treaty affecting European interests to a Congress, could do no more.

I am also informed that Count Ignatieff cannot arrive here with the text of the Treaty before Saturday next, 16th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 403.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 305. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 12, 1878.*

IN the course of conversation to-day with Prince Gortchakow, I inquired from his Highness whether the ratification of the Preliminaries of Peace with Turkey would take place before the meeting of the Congress.

His Highness replied that the Sultan had already ratified the Treaty; that Raouf Pasha was the bearer of the ratification; and that the ratifications would be exchanged as soon as possible after the receipt of the Treaty at St. Petersburgh.

I observed to his Highness that a Treaty when ratified was a complete instrument. How then could it continue to bear the title of "Preliminaries" when submitted to the Congress?

Prince Gortchakow said that, when ratified, the Treaty was binding as between Russia and Turkey. If any modifications were introduced by the European Congress, they would be the subject of further arrangement between Russia and Turkey.

Prince Gortchakow also, in reply to my inquiry, stated that on the receipt of the text of the Treaty, a complete copy of it would be officially communicated to the Treaty Powers.

I observed to his Highness that any member of the Congress could therefore refer to, or bring into discussion, any Article of the Treaty.

His Highness replied that, of course, he could not impose silence on any member of the Congress, but he could only accept a discussion on those portions of the Treaty which affected European interests.

Prince Gortchakow, in reply to my inquiry, stated that he had informed the Austrian Ambassador yesterday, who had been instructed to request his Highness to fix an early date for the meeting of the Congress, that he had fixed the date of meeting between 27th and 31st instant.

He further informed me that it was not yet decided whether Count Ignatiew would accompany him to the Congress. He required to have some one possessing the necessary information—ethnographical and geographical—of the localities to be treated of, and as he could not have M. Onou, whose presence was required at the head-quarters, it was probable that Count Ignatiew would be selected to accompany him. "But," added his Highness, "recollect that it makes an essential difference whether Count Ignatiew is alone or with me."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 404.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 307.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 13, 1878.*

IN obedience to the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, I communicated yesterday to Prince Gortchakow (not having been able to see his Highness sooner) the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the Greek Government are fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress, and that in reply to their appeal this opinion had been signified to the Greek Government.

Prince Gortchakow observed that, as the Congress was to be exclusively composed of the Signatory Powers of the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, the Greek Government could not claim to be admitted as an integral part ("partie intégrante") of the Congress, and that the admission of Greece would raise a similar claim on the part of the other small States interested in Eastern affairs to be represented in the Congress.

There would be no objection to Greece, as well as the other States, sending delegates to the Congress for the purpose of giving information, or of being consulted in regard to questions affecting their interests (or, as Prince Gortchakow humourously observed, "à titre de dictionnaire"), but they could not, in his opinion, be admitted as "partie intégrante" of the Congress.

Prince Gortchakow referred to a telegram which appeared on that morning in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," dated from Athens, and stating that "Her Majesty's Government had undertaken to represent the interests of Greece in the Congress."

His Highness remarked that Greece being connected by personal ties with England and Russia, they had both an equal interest in her welfare, and it was therefore from no unfriendly feelings towards Greece, but on principle alone, that he could not agree to her admission into the Congress.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 405.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 309.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt, last evening, of your Lordship's despatch No. 212 of the 9th instant, transmitting copies of a letter from Count Beust, and of your Lordship's reply, respecting the proposed Congress at Berlin.

In obedience to your Lordship's instruction, I addressed a note this day to Prince Gortchakow, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, communicating to his Highness a copy of the reply your Lordship had addressed to Count Beust.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 405.

Lord A. Loftus to Prince Gortchakow.

Mon Prince, *St. Petersburgh, March 13, 1878.*

IN conformity with the instructions of the Earl of Derby, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to communicate to your Highness a copy of the reply which his Lordship has addressed to Count Beust, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Court of St. James, on the proposal of his Government that a Congress should be assembled at Berlin, instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden, as previously contemplated.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 406.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 11. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, March 5, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copies of two despatches, received this week from Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, marked Nos. 5 and 6 of the 24th and 27th February respectively, containing further information regarding the massacre at Pristina of the 7th February, reported in Mr. Cooper's despatch No. 4 of the 20th, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship inclosed in my despatch, Political, No. 10 of the 1st instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 406.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Pristina, Kosovo, February 24, 1878.

Sir,

ON the 20th instant I reported that there had been a disturbance here on the 7th February. Since writing that despatch I have learnt some details of the massacre.

During the winter, three tribes of Arnaut Bashi-Bazouks—the Cadri, Bihni, and Tropopi—from Djakova, passed through Pristina and robbed the Christians with impunity. Returning from the front early this month, they resumed their work of pillaging those Christian houses whose inhabitants refused to give all that was asked.

On or about the 4th the Cadi went to supper with a Christian member of the Council. During the evening half-a-dozen Bashi-Bazouks entered the house, and, abusing the Cadi for going to a Christian's, beat and dragged him into the streets.

The Cadi, an old man, was so injured, he had to keep his bed for several days. The Bashi-Bazouks returned to the house where he had supped and sacked it the following morning.

On the 7th, about 2 P.M., some men of the above-mentioned tribes attempted to enter the house of a Christian gunsmith, one of a family with whom a Bashi-Bazouk from Djakova had a blood feud. The gunsmith, his wife, and her brother defended their house, shooting four and wounding seven Moslems before they were killed. The firing attracted the mob, and a general plunder and slaughter of the men in the neighbouring Christian houses took place. In all, fifteen Christian men and one woman were killed; two women and two children are still suffering from their wounds. The bodies of the dead were stripped and mutilated.

Amongst those killed was a Greek named Constantine D'Platopulo, a conductor of the Vilayet, and reported to be a British subject. I telegraphed on the 23rd, to the British Consul at Salonica to know if D'Platopulo was a British subject, and have not yet had an answer. He was not recognized as a British subject by the authorities here.

This man's corpse was found with gunshot and knife wounds, and as the Bashi-Bazouks only carried fire-arms the people of this place must have had a hand in the deed.

At the time the riot took place the Vali and Mustechar were in Pristina, and the commandant of the zaptiehs had some men, but there were no regular troops.

About 4 P.M., Hafiz Pacha and a weak Arab battalion came in. Hafiz Pacha says that he wished to disperse the rioters at once, but was dissuaded from using force by the local authorities, who feared that 200 soldiers would be insufficient to quell the disturbance. Besides Hafiz Pasha was not sure of his men, so keeping them under arms he contented himself by sending messages to the rioters that he would attack with artillery.

Towards evening the mob, apparently tired of their work, dispersed, and quiet has since been maintained.

Other troops have been brought in, and at present there are four battalions in Pristina, and the Bashi-Bazouks have been sent to their homes.

The Bashi-Bazouks from Novi-Bazar are also returning to their homes, and on the way murdered a peaceful inhabitant and plundered the Government grain-store at Vricitra on the 21st.

In a few days it is to be hoped that every place near here will be free from assemblies of these licensed robbers.

For the last three years the Christians of Pristina have led a miserable existence. They number only 1,500 in the midst of a bigoted Moslem Arnaut population of 7,500. The present Vali, Rafat Pasha, is called by the Moslems the Guiaour Vali, from his determination to see justice done to the Christians, but he has been able to do little for them, and during the riot of the 7th, and since, appears to have been overwhelmed with the dread of the disturbance spreading. The Moslems could always muster a large force in this town, and on the 7th February, from the number of fugitives, all armed and many of them zaptiehs and Circassians in the neighbourhood, it was thought that 15,000 armed Moslems could be assembled in six hours.

The riot of the 7th is now being investigated by a Commission on which there are an equal number of Christians and Moslems; amongst the former, M. Merot, an Italian, and Vilayet Engineer.

The police throw so many obstacles in the way, and the Christians are so frightened, that the investigation moves very slowly.

The Bashi-Bazouks have been sent unpunished to their homes; and though I believe there is strong suspicion against several of the Moslems of Pristrina, I am afraid it will be difficult to bring home the charges to the guilty ones as long as the inquiry is left in local hands.

The authorities justify their want of energy by the danger of bringing on a general rising amongst the Arnaut Moslems, and have applied to the Porte for permission to disarm the whole population of the vilayet; but though the matter is of great importance, no reply has yet been received.

The present is a favourable opportunity, as Hafiz Pasha states that, without putting the Government to any extra expense, his division of 20 battalions and 4 mountain-batteries would be sufficient to disarm the whole of the vilayet by the end of the coming summer.

The work would not be easy, as the Bashi-Bazouks already object to give up the arms so lavishly scattered during the late war, and even have lately stopped soldiers and relieved them of their rifles.

Both the Vali and Ferik have requested me to bring prominently to Her Majesty's Ambassador's notice the necessity of disarming the Moslem population, and hope that English influence may be brought in support of their representations to the Porte on that subject.

But though this is a move in the right direction, it will not punish those guilty of the massacres in Pristina on February 7. Some sharp measures are necessary to mark those cruel murders, and an official inquiry from Constantinople might warn those in high places here that it is not sufficient to offer polite speeches to European visitors, nor to promise well at Constantinople, but that the Christians must be protected in deed as well as in word.

Since the proclamation of the state of siege justice has been administered by courts-martial, which, while prompt to punish Christians, are slow to meet the same measure to Moslems.

Justice is also defeated by the zaptiehs, who—both officers and men—are reported to be in league with robbers and other malefactors, and whose chief is deemed an enemy of the Christians. The inaction of the latter on the 7th at least requires explanation.

Unfortunately connivance with crime is not confined to subordinates. Assaf Pasha, who commanded at Vranja, was telegraphed to by the Vali to punish the Bashi-Bazouks under his orders who were ravaging the country near Gilan. Assaf telegraphed back that "his conscience would not permit him to use Turkish soldiers against Moslems." On the 7th, after the riot, when it was thought that Hafiz Pasha could not collect the necessary force, the Vali again telegraphed to Assaf Pasha for two battalions. The reply was that "he did not consider it his duty to employ his troops against the Moslem population!"

The Mustechar of the vilayet, Vasa Effendi, leaves here to-morrow for Constantinople, and he could give Her Majesty's Ambassador many details regarding the misrule in this province, but he is not likely to implicate many of those Turks—regarded as their bitterest enemies by the Christians—who hold high positions under Government here.

As long as the old employés are retained in office there is little chance of improvement, whatever changes may be promised at Constantinople; and it is earnestly to be desired that the miserable condition of the Christians in this sanjak may not be forgotten at the Conference which is reported to be assembling on Eastern affairs.

I am beyond my Consular district; but till I receive certain intelligence as to whether Constantine D. Platopulo was a British subject or not, I shall remain here.

Any change of address I will communicate by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 406.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Acting Consul Freeman.

Pristina, Kosoco, February 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward a copy of a Memorandum on the massacre of the 7th February, which I received yesterday. The Memorandum is not signed, but it was read over in my presence by the author, whose name, for obvious reasons, is not given. He was in Pristina at the time of the massacre, and has since had exceptional means of collecting information. The account, except in a few minor details, agrees with what I have been able to gather from other sources.

The following comments may explain some of the references in the Memorandum.

1. The Mir Alai of zaptiehs was away from Pristina at the time of the Bashi-Bazouks' first visit, and the Bimbashi referred to, Suleiman Bey, is regarded here as one of the worst enemies of the Christians.

2. A small party of Servians on the 4th February visited Graeanica and Lipljan railway station, alarming the whole country, and though these dozen men retired within a few hours, the train service between Skoplje and Mitrovica was suspended for a couple of days. It was to restore confidence amongst the Moslems who were preparing to leave their houses that Hafiz Pasha moved two battalions to Janevo within the Turkish lines.

3. Prepolac is on the road to Kurumlje, about seven hours (twenty-four miles) from Pristina.

4. The house referred to as the engineer's was occupied by M. Merot, an Italian and vilayet engineer, with three conductors. One of the latter, the man murdered, Platopulo, was reported to have been a British subject.

5. Mitzo, who was slain by Salih the grocer, Molla Salih, the son of Rantaldje, and four other inhabitants of Pristina, was an ex-corporal who had been discharged last year, together with all the Christians from the zaptiehs.

I believe M. Merot was the person whose observations induced the Vali to order an inquiry. M. Merot, besides being the vilayet engineer, is chief of the Municipality, and his local knowledge would be of the greatest assistance to anyone sent here to investigate the events of the 7th February.

The Local Commission are carrying out their inquiries under great difficulties. Molla Ghikir, the Mukhtar of the quarter where the riot occurred and a member of the Commission, were found to be tampering with the witnesses. An attempt was also made to have a relative of one of Mitzo's murderers placed on the Commission. The Vali has now removed the Moslem members of the Commission who are inhabitants of Pristina, replacing them by Moslems from other places.

Up to the present no one has been arrested on charge of being concerned in the riots of the 7th. The police even found conveyance for the wounded Bashi-Bazouks, so that they were able to move with their comrades. But I was told this morning that some townsmen were to be arrested this afternoon. I have little faith in anyone being really punished, but I think for the present there need be no fear of another outbreak.

The Bashi-Bazouks have left, and though the fugitives are continually arriving from the territory occupied by the Servians, they are unarmed and passed on to the villages. There cannot be more than 3,000 in the town. Unfortunately, no steps are taken to disarm the Moslem population within the Turkish lines, and as long as these Arnauts and Slav Moslems retain arms there will be danger of an attack on the Christians, but the present garrison is sufficient to maintain order in Pristina.

I have not yet received replies to my telegrams of the 23rd to the Consul at Salonica, and of the 25th to the Consul at the Dardanelles, but as far as I can make out Constantine Platopulo had no claim to the title of British subject. His family lived at the Dardanelles, and is said to have been intimate with that of the English Vice-Consul, and at some time or other Platopulo may have been engaged in work that gave him temporarily British protection.

Telegraph communication with Constantinople has been interrupted since the 17th.

Under these circumstances I propose leaving on March 1, and returning to Bosna Serai, viâ Sjenica and Visigrad.

Six hundred and fifty Moslem families near Gilan are reported to have announced their return to Christianity. Some few years ago great pressure was exercised on the Roman Catholic Rajahs of that district, and many professed Mahometism. But they kept the Christian festivals and their Mahometanism was merely nominal. The Roman Catholic priest has, I hear, very prudently declined publicly to admit such converts till he knows what is to be the future government of the country.

The Circassians in this sandjak are selling their stock and preparing to leave the country. Their departure will be a great blessing. For the present though, to prevent adding to the already large moving population, they are not allowed to emigrate. The Turkish authorities are loud in the abuse of the Circassians, who, useless as soldiers, have been the first to spread alarm in rear of the armies, and plunder Moslem and Christian villages alike.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 406.

Memorandum.

LES Bachi-Bozouks de Prisrend, à leur passage de Pristina, ont commis des atrocités que l'autorité locale (pour mieux dire la police sous les ordres du Bimbachi) n'a nullement cherché d'empêcher.

Après le départ des Prisrendis, les Rekalis (Bachi-Bozouks de Jacowa) ont commis pire, encouragés par le laisser-aller de la police.

Ces fameux brigands, dans leur passage à Pristina, vers le commencement du mois de Janvier, pillaient et ravageaient les maisons sous le nez de zaptiés.

Un membre du Conseil de la Cour d'Appel s'étant rendu au Bimbachi pour lui demander de la force pour empêcher que les Bachi-Bozouks cassassent sa porte, le Bimbachi lui répondit que, pour mieux faire, il n'avait qu'à leur ouvrir la porte lui-même.

Quelques jours après l'autorité est parvenu à les renvoyer sur le théâtre de la guerre, et depuis lors jusqu'au 6 Février la ville avait pris son aspect primitif, à l'exception de l'inquiétude que lui donnait l'approche de l'ennemi.

Le 5 Février, les Serbes s'étant approchés jusqu'à Gracian, une heure et demie de Pristina, Hafiouz Pacha se rend du côté de Janevo, et en même temps donne ordre aux Bachi-Bozouks qui étaient à Prepalaz de se rassembler à Pristina.

Les Bachi-Bozouks arrivent donc le 6 Février, et commencent à dévaliser les maisons Chrétiennes. Ils ont été conduits par des habitants, et par les fils de Mehmed Derr et par Emir, le fils de Hafiouz Allur.

Le 7 Février ces fameux défenseurs de la Turquie avait commencé une pillage par la maison de Hadji Pape, voisine à celle des ingénieurs.

Lorsque vers les 2·8 heures après midi, une cinquintaine, conduits par le fameux Mehmed de Gupique (décoré du Medjidié de 5ème classe), et par quelques habitants, se sont rendus chez Jowan, l'armurier.

Ce Jowan était natif de Ipek, d'où, il y a quelques années, était venu s'établir à Pristina.

A l'approche des Bachi-Bozouks Jowan a eu l'idée d'envoyer sa belle-mère chez le Vali et présenter une requête en demandant du secours. Ces prières étaient vaines.

Les Bachi-Bozouks escaladent les murs, ouvrent les portes, et d'autres pénétrent. En entrant commencent à dévaliser l'appartement du beau-frère de Jowan, qui était séparé de celui de Jowan, et tirent des coups de fusils aux appartements de Jowan où celui-ci, sa mère, sa femme, avec quatre enfants, son beau-frère avec sa mère, sa femme et un enfant, étaient enfermés.

La femme de Jowan (dans l'état intéressant qu'elle était) prend du courage, et en brave heroïne, blesse d'un coup de fusil le nommé Mehmed, que quatre Bachi-Bozouks ont immédiatement emporté.

La femme reste après mortellement blessée, et Jowan, avec son beau-frère Stoyan, légèrement blessés, aussi commencent à se défendre, tuent cinq, et en blessent onze.

Les Bachi-Bozouks alors ont mis le feu à la maison. Jowan laisse son beau-frère se défendre, et va percer un trou au mur d'une chambre pour faire passer les enfants et sa belle-sœur à la maison de son voisin. De là retourné auprès de son beau-frère, qu'il

trouve mort, continue à se battre, et ce n'est que lorsque la maison commençait à s'affaisser qu'il a passé par le trou pratiqué au mur, et est allé se cacher dans la cave de Salih.

Là il est poursuivie, tue un devant la porte et en blesse deux ; mais obligé de sortir, suite de la fumée qu'occasionerait le feu qu'ils avaient mis, par la fenêtre de la cave, sort, et c'est alors qu'il tombe criblé de balles.

Son corps, et celui de Stoyan, ont été traînés dans les rues, et laissés au milieu de la boue.

Pendant que cette bande combattait avec Jowan, une autre, ou, pour mieux dire, plusieurs autres bandes s'étaient rendues dans toutes les maisons du quartier, et ont tué tous les hommes, femmes, et enfants qui, n'ayant pu se sauver dans la multitude, étaient restés chez eux enfermés.

Les vols et la boucherie étaient simultanés dans toutes les maisons.

En entrant dans la maison de Simeio, où il y avait des émigrés, et où le propriétaire, encouragé par ces derniers, était resté chez lui, et avait invité d'autres familles à se rendre chez lui, les Bachi-Bozouks ont trouvé de la résistance de la part des émigrés.

Les émigrés alors sont menacés ; les Bachi-Bozouks les forcent d'ouvrir les portes, et leur disent qu'ils voulaient tuer les Guiaours qui étaient dedans, et non les Musulmans.

Dans cette maison il y avait :—

Le propriétaire Simeo.

Une voisine la nommée Cato, avec sa fille, son fils avec sa femme.

Une autre femme avec son fils, son frère.

Trois autres petits enfants de dix à quatorze ans.

Un homme, le nommé Ciukirakei.

Les émigrés alors s'esquivent d'un côté, et les Bachi-Bozouks entrent de l'autre, tuent d'abord le Ciukirakei, blessent la vieille Cato à la main droite, tuent les trois enfants, et blessent aussi l'autre femme.

Le fils de Cato a été gracié aussi parcequ'il avait promis aux Bachi-Bozouks d'embrasser l'Islamisme ; mais en sortant de la chambre d'autres Bachi-Bozouks, qui étaient dans la cour, l'ont tué. La mère et sœur s'approchent du cadavre, lorsqu'un habitant de Pristina tire un coup de fusil sur le cadavre.

Dans la maison voisine le nommé Vitco Cassap et son fils sont tué en même temps.

Le nommé Iracio est tué aussi dans sa maison.

Le nommé Nikio a été aussi tué dans sa maison.

Le fils de Thanacko, blessé.

Daniel Hadji Milo, blessé.

Dans une rue tout à fait séparée de celle de Jowan, le nommé Mirzo, de Ipeh, en se rendant au konak pour avertir que les Bachi-Bozouks entraient chez lui, a été tué par les habitants, qui étaient près de sa porte au nombre de six, tous armés.

La maison des ingénieurs a été assaillie aussi en même temps, leurs effets volés ; mais la vie de deux conducteurs qui s'y trouvaient leur a été graciée. Ce n'est que lorsque le conducteur Platopulo Costi, se voyant sauvé des Bachi-Bozouks, voulait venir à la municipalité, à soixante pas de chez lui, un habitant l'a terrassé d'un coup de fusil, après quoi d'autres l'ont achevé.

Son corps gissait dans la rue jusqu'au coucher du soleil, sans avoir la tête détachée, et ce n'est que dans la nuit que la tête a été détachée du corps et mise entre les parties.

Le nommé Costi Rocherman a été tué aussi. Celui-ci était voisin des ingénieurs.

Ceci a duré jusqu'à une demie heure avant le coucher du soleil, après quoi les Bachi-Bozouks se sont retirés.

Le lendemain les Bachi-Bozouks ont continué à dévaliser les maisons, sans prouver aucune résistance de la part de la police.

Jusqu'à 12 Février on ne voyait pas un seul Chrétien dans les rues.

L'autorité n'avait même pas pensé à faire des recherches, et ce n'est qu'à la suite des observations faites de la part de quelqu'un qu'une Commission d'enquête fut formée.

Pristina, le 27 Février, 1878.

No. 407.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, March 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the authorities here were officially informed by the Porte, on the 5th instant, that peace had been signed between

Russia and Turkey. This news appears to have been received by the people with extraordinary indifference. There is naturally some slight anxiety displayed as to the exact form which the stipulated administrative autonomy of this province is to take, but I believe that almost any arrangement will be accepted without a murmur.

A letter from Serajevo, which has lately appeared in some of the European newspapers, states that a deputation of Catholics and Mussulmans has just left this for Vienna, to advocate the annexation of the country to Austria. No one here, however, appears to have any knowledge of such a deputation, and I believe it only exists in the imagination of the Serajevo correspondent. At the same time, I am inclined to think that among the native Mussulmans there is a growing inclination in favour of Austria. They perceive that the power of the Porte in Europe is shattered; they are opposed to annexation to either Servia or Montenegro; they foresee that the Christian element will predominate in the future administration of the province; and they therefore think that their position would probably be better, and their rights and religion be more fully secured to them, were the country annexed to Austria.

I do not wish to have the appearance of either advocating or discouraging a foreign occupation of Bosnia, but I cannot refrain from expressing to your Lordship my conviction of the difficulty—I might almost say impossibility—of organizing an effective Administration out of the local elements at command. The higher posts in the Administration have always been held by Osmanlis; and there are but few native Mussulmans of sufficient education, or who have had the necessary experience, to enable them to efficiently perform important official functions. Among the Christians there are men of somewhat better education, and generally more enlightened, having travelled and come in contact with Europeans; but these are all engaged in trade, and would, I suspect, with difficulty be persuaded to relinquish their commercial pursuits for a doubtful official career. In time these drawbacks to an autonomous Administration will, no doubt, disappear; but during the intervening years requisite for the education and formation of a new class of functionaries the foreign element must of necessity enter largely into whatever form of Government may be decided on for this country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 408.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 31. Political. Confidential.)

Bucharest, March 6, 1878.

My Lord,

IN reference to my telegram of Monday, the 4th instant, having occasion to see M. Bratiano about some matters connected with Mr. Crawley's contract, I took the opportunity of generally asking him what would be the policy of this Government in the event of complications between Russia and Austria.

The Minister answered in a somewhat vague sense, but clearly made me understand that they would probably adhere to the Russian alliance. M. Bratiano, I think, wished me to gather that they were helpless in the matter, which is probably to a certain extent true; but there is no doubt that General Ignatieff, when lately in Bucharest, held out hopes that, in the event of further hostilities, and that Austria was worsted, the Bukowina might be ceded to Roumania, as a territory with a Roumanian speaking population.

M. Rosetti, I understand, is holding similar language, whilst M. Cogalniceano, although making no reference to the Bukowina, is, I hear, advocating the Russian cause in opposition to that of Austria.

There is no doubt that for this country to engage in further hostilities would be most unpopular in every sense, and there is unquestionably a large section who would entirely deprecate throwing in their lot any further with a Russian alliance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 409.

Consul Watkins to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Larnaca, March 6, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, copy of a despatch I addressed yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with reference to the uneasiness created amongst the inhabitants of Larnaca and Nicosia by the news of the arrival here shortly of 3,000 refugees from Constantinople; also translation of a petition addressed by the inhabitants of this town to the foreign representatives on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES WATKINS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 409.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, March 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Governor of Cyprus has received a telegram from Constantinople, to the effect that 3,000 refugees have embarked from there for this island, where they will probably arrive to-day or to-morrow.

This news has created a great panic amongst the inhabitants of Larnaca and Nicosia; at the latter place the Greek Archbishop and the principal Greek residents protested against their being allowed to land, but without avail.

The Medjliss was occupied yesterday with this subject for four hours, but the only conclusion they came to was to try to prevent the sending of any more to this island, which is already in a very impoverished state.

The Governor has promised to take immediate steps to carry the refugees into different parts of the interior, so as not to leave the entire 3,000 at Larnaca, where there is neither accommodation nor food. He has also voted 500 silver medjidis towards their maintenance for the first few days, but the inhabitants of this town now fear that no further supplies will be voted when this small sum is expended, and that the refugees will resort to robbery and violence, in order to maintain themselves.

His Excellency has given orders to the Kaïmakam of Larnaca, that all these people should be provisionally lodged at the quarantine, a small establishment immediately outside the town, partly in ruins, and which at the outside could only accommodate as many hundreds as there will be thousands.

The medical officer in charge (Dr. Heidenstand) has protested against this measure, firstly, because he has no orders from Constantinople to receive them; and secondly, on account of the contagious disease which must inevitably result in crowding so many people in such a small space. Notwithstanding his plausible reasons to the contrary, he has been ordered to leave his residence in the quarantine ground, that that may also be occupied by the refugees. Should he not comply to-morrow morning, zaptiehs will be instructed to throw all his things out.

I inclose herewith, for your Excellency's perusal, the translation of a petition the inhabitants of Larnaca here addressed to the foreign representatives of Cyprus on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES WATKINS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 409.

Petition addressed to the European Consuls.

M. le Consul, *Larnaca, le 4 Mars,* 1878.

NOTRE ville a été fort consternée à la nouvelle d'un télégramme expédié dernièrement par la Sublime Porte au Gouverneur-Général de l'île, d'après lequel 3,000 Tartares environ étaient embarqués à bord du vapeur Autrichien "Flora," à destination de Chypre.

La misère qui sévit depuis longtemps sur le pays, triste fruit de la sécheresse de dernières années et de bien d'autres causes, est incompatible à l'établissement parmi nous de gens sans pain ni foyer. Les actes vandales commis ailleurs par cette race

féroce et sanguinaire, dont les seules qualités sont le meurtre, les déprédations et le pillage, sont une preuve éclatante que la présence de pareils hôtes serait un danger imminent contre la santé publique de nos populations tranquilles et paisibles, d'autant plus que ni le caractère doux et bien connu de ces populations ni la force préposée à maintenir l'ordre public, ne saurait être une garantie suffisante contre cette férocité exemplaire.

Si l'on considère en outre que la santé publique serait gravement compromise par la visite d'individus atteints de la variole et d'autres maladies contagieuses, on se trouverait embarrassé de calculer les tristes conséquences de la mise à exécution de cette mesure injuste de la part du Gouvernement Impérial.

Pénétrés de douleurs d'un malheur si prochain, nous venons faire appel, M. le Consul, à vos sentiments d'humanité et de justice, et vous supplier de nous prêter votre appui de concert avec Messieurs vos honorables collègues.

Le Corps Consulaire de Chypre s'est constamment plu dans le passé à donner au pays des preuves non équivoques de vif intérêt dont il l'honore dans ces circonstances malheureuses, et les Soussignés se flattent d'espérer que vous voudrez bien cette fois encore mettre en œuvre l'action énergique qui vous caractérise.

Nous avons pleine confiance, M. le Consul, qu'en face d'une situation grave et extraordinaire, votre zèle et votre sollicitude ne nous feront point défaut, et que vous daignerez prendre les mesures que vous jugerez convenables en vous référant aussi à qui de droit à l'effet de nous épargner les maux qui ne manqueront pas d'accompagner ces hôtes inattendus.

C'est dans cet espoir que nous avons l'honneur, &c.

[(Signed by 130 of the Inhabitants of Larnaca.)

No. 410.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 9,* 1878.

THE clause in the Preliminaries of Peace between Russia and Turkey which provides that Bosnia is to be administered under the scheme submitted to the Porte at the first sitting of the Conference of Constantinople, is not likely to meet with favour from the Austrian Government.

It will be within your Lordship's recollection that last year when General Ignatieff's projects for the government of the Turkish provinces which, with few modifications, were adopted, were first known, Count Andrassy pointed out in forcible language how little suited they were to the populations to which they were to be applied, but the Austrian Plenipotentiaries, unwilling to stand alone or to be the first to put themselves forward in opposition to Russia, reluctantly consented to a scheme of administration for Bosnia very similar to that which had been agreed upon for Bulgaria.

It seems to be believed here that the object of Russia in now wishing to impose the same project is to establish a form of government that may appear plausible to persons having no knowledge of the mixed Turkish provinces, but which, if carried out, must insure a state of disorder causing infinite embarrassment to Austria, whose territories nearly surround the province in question.

This conviction was expressed to me this afternoon in the plainest language by Baron Calice, who reminded me of the objections he had always felt to the form of administration that had been proposed at the Constantinople Conference.

Whatever force there may have been in those objections a year ago, they are certainly greatly increased now, by the diminution of the authority of the Porte which must be the consequence of the events of the past year.

In England it has been the fashion to assume that the remedy for the maladministration of the Turkish provinces is to be found by giving the populations entire freedom to manage their own affairs; but those who are acquainted with the mixed districts, and with the hostility of the different sects of Christians towards each other, as well as towards the Mussulmans, know that unless checked by a superior controlling authority the majority of the population would exercise over the minority a tyranny more insupportable than anything that formerly existed.

It is this that constitutes the main difficulty in devising a scheme for the satisfactory Government of the provinces.

Sufficient popular control must be given to prevent arbitrary acts of injustice on the

part of the superior authorities, but sufficient power must be left to the latter to protect all classes of the populations from the oppression they would suffer at the hands of a majority if left to themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 411.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 199. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 11, 1878.*

THE frequent allusions in the newspapers to the question of the acquisition of Egypt by Great Britain appear to be seen by the French Government with some slight uneasiness.

In a private letter from M. Waddington, which was read to me by the French Ambassador, he adverted to the subject, and said that although nothing could be more satisfactory or explicit than the assurances he had received from your Lordship, it was known that Prince Bismarck was encouraging the project, and had intimated that if it was adopted he would have no objection to France taking possession of Tunis, while a portion of the coast of Albania might be allotted to Italy.

Prince Bismarck would, of course, claim something for Germany, but the knowledge of his entertaining such a scheme had made it necessary for the French Government, in signifying their acceptance of a Congress at Berlin, to accompany it with the condition that no matter should be discussed at it which was not fairly connected with the events which have occurred in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 412.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 13, 1878.*

THE name of Prince Battenberg has often been mentioned as that of the future Prince of Bulgaria, but I was not aware whether the report rested on any foundation.

I learn, however, from M. Dimitri Stourdza, that Prince Tcherkaski, while in Roumania, pointed out Prince Alexander of Battenberg as designated for the post.

As your Lordship is aware, the Prince Battenberg in question is a young officer in the Russian service, his father, Prince Alexander of Hesse, being the brother of the Empress of Russia, his mother having been a maid of honour at the Imperial Court of St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 413.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 209.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1878.*

I LOST no time in transmitting to Count Andrassy the expression of the views of Her Majesty's Government upon the necessity of having the whole of the Russo-Turkish Treaty communicated to the Congress.

When I saw Baron Orczy yesterday afternoon, he informed me that Count Beust had already been instructed to communicate to your Lordship the reasons which prevented Count Andrassy from sharing the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that Russia should be called upon to produce the entire Treaty, as she had already declared that it would lie with the Congress to decide what parts of her arrangements with Turkey should be held to be of European interest.

In Count Andrassy's opinion, under such a declaration, nothing more was requisite.

I said that I was not aware of the Russian Government having made any such explicit declaration, though they had stated that everything of European interest, or that touched the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, was to be laid before the Powers.

This, however, was a totally different thing, and if we were to be satisfied with it, we should leave the Russian Government free to produce or to withhold what they chose, and conditions which we might consider closely to affect our interests might never be laid before the Congress at all.

I further pointed out that if, as Count Andrassy supposed, it was the Congress which had to decide what parts of the Treaty it had to discuss, it was evident that the whole of the instrument must be laid before the Plenipotentiaries to enable them to form an opinion upon its bearings.

I this morning forwarded to Count Andrassy your Lordship's telegram on this subject, which I received last night, but when I called in the afternoon at the Foreign Office, I found that his Excellency had been so entirely engaged at the Delegations, that Baron Calice, whom I saw, had not been able to speak to him about it.

Baron Calice said that the difference of opinion between the two Governments appeared to him to turn upon a divergence in the information which we had received respecting the intentions of Prince Gortchakow; for, while M. Langenau had distinctly reported his Highness to have said that the Congress would decide what points of the arrangement between Russia and Turkey should be examined and discussed, no such intimation seemed to have been conveyed to Her Majesty's Government.

I observed that the language of Prince Gortchakow, as reported by Lord Augustus Loftus, led to the belief that M. Langenau must have misunderstood his Highness, who had spoken to Her Majesty's Ambassador of the concession which Russia had made by consenting to submit to the Powers the Articles of the Treaty which affected European interests, and said that she could not go further.

The question, I said, was one of such capital importance as to make it indispensable that there should be no misunderstanding about it, and it would, therefore, have to be cleared up before Her Majesty's Government consented to go into Congress.

Baron Calice then said that he supposed the text of the Treaty would be communicated to the Powers before the Congress assembled, and it would then be competent for any of the Plenipotentiaries to submit to its consideration any part of it that seemed to touch the rights and interests of Europe.

He added, that while in what he had said he believed himself to have expressed the opinions of Count Andrassy, he must again remind me that he had not had an opportunity of speaking to his Excellency since the last communication from Her Majesty's Government had been received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 414.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 14, 1878.*

M. DEMETRI STOURZA called upon me yesterday in company with M. Jon Ghika, having just arrived here on a confidential mission from Prince Charles.

I was long intimately acquainted with M. Stourza when he represented the Roumanian Government at Constantinople, where he showed himself to be a man of moderate views, seeing with regret many of the ill-advised questions raised by his Government, which prevented the maintenance of good relations between them and the Porte.

He described the irritation prevailing in Roumania at the demand of Russia for the retrocession of Moldavian Bessarabia in terms quite as forcible as those which I have already reported M. Balachano to have used.

I remarked that when persons like myself, whose duty it was a year ago to watch the progress of events, knew so well that one cause of the determination of Russia to pick a quarrel with Turkey was to find a way to recover her ceded portion of Bessarabia, I could not believe the present demand for it to have taken Prince Charles' Ministers as much by surprise as was asserted.

M. Stourza and M. Jon Ghika are both of them political opponents of the Roumanian Ministers, but they declared that as the Government had obtained from the Emperor of Russia an explicit guarantee by Treaty for the integrity of the Roumanian territory as

fixed by the Treaty of Paris, they were justified in trusting to His Majesty's word, and in believing that they ran no risk.

That, within so short a period as had elapsed between the signature of that Treaty and the conversation of the Emperor Alexander with Colonel Wellesley, His Majesty had already determined to disregard his solemn engagements, had filled every one with astonishment when it came to be known.

If it had been known sooner in Roumania, the result of the campaign might have been very different from what it has proved, for, according to M. Stourza and M. Ghika, not a Roumanian soldier would have passed the Danube to save the Russians from the inevitable destruction threatened by the disasters before Plevna, from which they were only saved by the timely arrival of the Roumanian contingent.

M. Stourza had seen the Grand Duke's telegram to Prince Charles, in which he besought him to lose no time in sending over his troops, as the Russian army was about to be annihilated by the Turks; and if Prince Charles had then been aware that the Emperor of Russia had already informed Her Majesty's Government of his intention of despoiling the Principality, his Highness would never have responded to the appeal.

M. Stourza tells me that the motive of the mission with which he is entrusted by Prince Charles is to encourage resistance being made to the Russian demands.

He was particularly directed to ascertain the feelings of the principal Hungarians, and these being now at Vienna attending the Delegations, he had come on here instead of stopping at Pesth.

If he does not in so many words assert it, he at least very plainly intimates that, in the event of a rupture between Austria and Russia, Roumania would throw its weight into the scale of the former with a view to the retention of its present territories, or perhaps of their extension to the parts of Bessarabia still belonging to Russia, but which are inhabited by a Roumanian population desirous of being reunited to their original country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 415.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 211.)
My Lord,

Vienna, March 14, 1878.

THE Austrian Government profess to have no information about the deputation said to be coming from Bosnia to ask for its annexation to this Empire, though they seem to believe the report to be correct.

They know that the Catholic and Mahommedan population greatly dread the establishment of a form of administration which would throw too much power into the hands of the members of the Orthodox Church.

It is notorious that the insurgents in Bosnia, among whom were very few Roman Catholics, were animated more by agrarian than by political considerations, and by the wish of obtaining possession of the lands belonging to the Mahommedan proprietors, which they cultivated under innumerable and complicated forms of tenure, some of them of a very vexatious nature.

Under anything like an autonomous administration the landowners expect that a measure of confiscation, entailing their entire ruin, would be carried out; and rather than be exposed to it, it is probable that they would prefer placing themselves under the authority of the Austrian Government, which they believe would protect them from being made the victims of any act of gross injustice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 416.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 213.)
My Lord,

Vienna, March 15, 1878.

BARON CALICE having said yesterday that it was hoped the Congress might meet by the 28th or 30th of the present month, I inquired whether any invitation had been given to the Porte to send a Representative to attend it.

His Excellency said that none had yet been sent, as it was thought better to defer it till a day had been fixed for the meeting, and until a settlement of the question which had arisen about the necessity of having the whole of the Russo-Turkish Treaty laid before the Congress, no precise day could be stated for the assembling of the Representatives.

I observed that it would not be easy to say why, in the case of the Porte more than in that of the other belligerent or neutral Governments, the exact period for the meeting of the Congress was to be decided before it was to be invited to take part in it; and, moreover, that if the invitation were not sent at once, it might be impossible for a Turkish Plenipotentiary to arrive at Berlin by the time at which it was intended that the proceedings should commence.

An unnecessary want of regard for the Turkish Government seems already to have have been shown in so long delaying the invitation, but it is to be hoped that there is no intention of repeating the affront offered to them at Constantinople by commencing the business in the absence of an Ottoman Representative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 417.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord,

Vienna, March 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to the Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 417.

Major Gonne to Sir H. Elliot.

Vienna, March 15, 1878.

Sir,

IN continuation of the Report I have had the honour to submit concerning the mobilization of the Austro-Hungarian armed strength, I am anxious that your Excellency shall understand that the recent utterances of Count Andrassy before the Delegations have caused dismay rather than enthusiasm, both in commercial and military circles. In Hungary alone is a bold policy, represented by warlike preparation, really popular. The Hungarian Delegation will record an unanimous vote for the war credit of 60,000,000 gulden for the purpose of mobilization, but not occupation. The Austrian Delegation will record a majority of votes in favour of the Government proposition, as a vote of confidence. The country at large, however, evidences no national sentiment in favour of the maintenance of *prestige* and power by an appeal to arms in a righteous cause; and I can only describe the attitude of the War Office as calm but despondent.

During the Turkish war, staff officers were ever ready to point out weakness in the Russian armies. Now they seem to look on the experienced armies of the Czar as irresistible; and they enlarge on the truth that the Russians are on a war footing, ready to strike, whilst a first experiment to arm the Austrian army is in progress. Again, I hear unfavourable reports of the fortifications and armament of Kracow.

The first question of gravity will be how to raise the 60,000,000 gulden.

As far as I can ascertain, the reserve of money, or rather securities, in the military chest, consists in a balance which was not divided between Vienna and Pesth when Count Beust's compromise was signed; an economy of 10,000,000 gulden, obtained by the sale of artillery out of date, &c., and a fund of 30,000,000 gulden arising from the old system of purchasing exemption from service. The total may arrive at a total value of about 150,000,000 gulden. I imagine that this sum would be absorbed by a general mobilization, and that funds would be immediately requisite for the daily cost of the army.

The army on its peace strength consumes about 32,000*l.* sterling per day; this, multiplied by three, equals 96,000*l.*, which I take to be less than the daily cost of subsistence of the army on its war strength, in that the rations will have to be dearer, larger, and will have to be transported.

The War Office estimate of the consumptive cost of a mobilized army is 4,000,000 guldens per day whilst within the frontiers of the Empire. I note that the Austrian

Finance Minister, Pretis, talks of 42,000,000 gulden as the Austrian share of the credit. It seems probable, therefore, that the contents of the common treasure chest will remain untouched and in reserve, whilst each Finance Minister in the dual Government will provide for the liability of the country he represents.

I have already explained that the administrative machinery is supposed to be in perfect working order, and have expressed an opinion that a battle order cannot be arranged in less than one month. The optimist view of the staff place the period at three weeks for a defensive battle order and one month for an offensive. In other words, that Austria in three weeks can mass a force to protect her own frontier, but could not leave her territory in less than four weeks. I fully expect also that when the 60,000,000 are voted works of a defensive nature will be executed by the engineers covering Hungary. It only remains to state the probable strength of a Corps d'Armée and the numbers of Landwehr, including Honveds, intended to act in the first line.

I estimate the corps at 54,000 strong, including three divisions of infantry, thus fourteen corps give 756,000 men. To this must be added five divisions of cavalry or 26,000 men, and say 12,000 men representing artillery parks and head-quarter staff for three armies.

The Landwehr will, I am told, consist of eight divisions, or 145,000 men, without counting the Landwehr of the Tyrol (not to move from its mountains).

The total war effective will reach 940,000, of which probably 600,000 combattants could be strategically employed.

The material of a corps requires 11,000 horses and 112 guns, with 1,500 regimental baggage waggons, and, according to the War Office theory, hired transport ought to be prepared for twice the effective force.

I believe the Austrians to be well supplied in everything except a suitable reserve of ammunition for the field artillery, a want which is being daily supplied, and heavy guns for siege purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 418.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 10, 1878.*

THE Greek Government having made an application to be admitted to the Congress proposed to be held at Berlin for the solution of the Eastern question, the German Government have replied that it is intended that this Congress shall be exclusively composed of Representatives of those Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris in 1856.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 419.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 189.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 10, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, has notified to the German Government his intention to attend the approaching Congress in Berlin in person.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 420.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 191. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 11, 1878.*

HERR VON BÜLOW told me to-day, in strict confidence, that Count Münster had reported his impression from London to Prince Bismarck that Her Majesty's Government might decline to attend the Berlin Conference if the Russian Government refuse to admit the discussion of all the questions dealt with in the Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey.

His Excellency went on to say that Prince Bismarck desired him to tell me that the German Government could not enter upon a Conference on European affairs without all their friends, and that if Her Majesty's Government should decline to be represented at the Berlin Conference, the German Government would withdraw from it also. Germany could not consent to a Conference without England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 421.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 195. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 12, 1878.*

I HEARD to-day on good authority that Count Stollberg, the German Ambassador at Vienna, when he last wrote from thence, was under the impression that the Austrian Government now seriously contemplated the occupation of Bosnia; not a "parallel occupation," as it has been called, but simply for the better protection of Austrian interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 422.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 197.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. G. Varnav Liteano, Diplomatic Agent for Roumania, has arrived at Berlin, and has been received by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs. It is believed that he is charged with a letter from Prince Charles to the German Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 423.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 199. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, respecting the representation at the Congress of the Greek Government, I find that Prince Bismarck is of opinion that the Congress should be composed only of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris, but he fully agrees with Her Majesty's Government in thinking that the interests of the Greek nation should be taken into consideration and fully discussed by the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 424.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY proposes that the Congress should meet on the 25th instant, and Prince Gortchakow has already agreed to his proposal.

Prince Bismarck, I am told, has no objection to the 25th instant, provided the other Powers concerned are equally disposed to meet on that day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 425.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 203. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

I HEAR from Russia that General Leflô, the French Ambassador, has told the Russian Government that the subjects his Government wish more particularly to exclude from the discussion of the coming Congress are Egypt, Syria, and the Holy Places.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 426.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 204. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 13, 1878.*

PRINCE Bismarck has requested me to assure your Lordship that Germany will not take part in a Conference or Congress on Eastern affairs without England.

His reason for giving your Lordship this assurance, he said, was because he understood that an impression existed in London some days since that he would invite the Powers to meet in Berlin, even though Her Majesty's Government declined to be represented at the proposed Congress. This rumour had no foundation whatever.

The truth was that he had most reluctantly yielded to the wishes of Russia and Austria to hold the Conference in Berlin at all, and had, in fact, done so solely that Germany might not be suspected of standing in the way of the pacification of Europe. Until, therefore, the other Powers were agreed upon the basis and time of meeting for the Congress, he would maintain a passive and neutral attitude, and the invitations would not be sent out until he heard from Vienna that all the Powers were ready to accept them.

I asked what he thought of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the whole of the Turco-Russian Treaty should be submitted to the Congress.

Prince Bismarck replied that he was ready to accept it if the other Powers agreed, but he did not think it likely that Russia would. The French proposal to limit the discussions to questions only which arise directly or naturally out of the war he was equally willing to agree to, but he thought it might be found inconvenient by some of the Powers. For instance, if England had something to say about Egypt, France might object.

He was glad to see by the newspapers that Her Majesty's Government were inclined to favour Greece in the coming Congress, and he would willingly support England and Austria in promoting the interests of the Greek nation; but he would not for that be inclined to admit a Greek Plenipotentiary into the Conference, which should, in his opinion, be composed of the Signatory Powers only.

Russia having taken Bulgaria under her wing, it would, in his opinion, be good policy on the part of England and Austria to promote the interests of the Greeks and of the Servians, and if such a policy were adopted he would gladly give it his best support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 427.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 206. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March 14, 1878.*

I HAVE been privately informed, with respect to your Lordship's letter of the 9th instant to Count Beust, copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 131, of the 9th instant, that both here in Berlin as well as in Paris the proposal that the whole of the Turko-Russian Treaty should be submitted to the Congress is looked upon in the light of a somewhat exaggerated demand which will scarcely obtain the support of the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 428.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Darmstadt, March 13, 1878.*

I AM privately informed on good authority that the real cause of Prince Alexander of Hesse's journey to Vienna was a telegram from the Emperor of Austria to his Highness, saying that His Majesty wished to see him at once.

It is conjectured here that Prince Alexander's intimate relations with the Emperor Alexander, and the affection with which he is also regarded by the Emperor Francis Joseph, may have possibly induced the latter to select his Highness as a channel for confidential communication with the Russian Court, in view of any impending disagreement between the two Imperial Courts.

I believe this would not be the first occasion on which his Highness's friendly services have been appealed to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 429.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, March 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to the inclosed copy of a circular summoning a meeting of Consuls, I have the honour to state that the subject of our deliberations turned upon a Report of the Nomarch to the Ottoman Consul-General, informing him that the most savage acts of cruelty were being committed by the Turkish troops in and around the locality which had been the scene of the late disturbances, that men, women, and children were being piteously massacred, and that thirteen villages had been burnt and plundered, &c.

2. I beg to be allowed to state briefly, that the decision arrived at by the meeting was simply to inform by telegraph the Representatives of our respective Governments at Athens of the nature of the information conveyed to us, leaving it to their Excellencies to determine on the course of action to be pursued. I accordingly in this sense telegraphed to Mr. Wyndham, concluding with a request that he would be pleased to communicate with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople on the subject. I have, as yet, received no reply to this communication.

3. Tired of the risk and danger of having to act on reports often contradictory, and always more or less exaggerated, when not totally and designedly false, I determined to seek an interview with the Commander of the Turkish ironclad stationed off Butrinto on the opposite coast, in the hope of getting from him some reliable information relative to the actual state of matters along the coast.

Commander Fitzgerald obligingly consented to give me a passage, and at 3 o'clock P.M., yesterday, in company with Sir George Bilicombe, R.N., and Mr. Taylor, we started for Butrinto, and after a short hour's steaming we anchored alongside of the "Mahmoudié,"

Captain Mehmet Ali Bey, from whom we received a most cordial welcome on boarding his ship.

4. I entered at once on the object of our visit, and mentioning the nature of the reports in circulation at Corfu, received an unqualified contradiction of them, which was confirmed by the first Lieutenant, a smart young officer educated in our navy.

5. After a little further debate, and on pointing out that compassion shown to helpless women and children was not only a common duty of humanity, but that after all that had been written and believed relative to cruelties committed in Roumelia, it could not but tend to the "glory and honour" of the Padishah's Government to sanction every measure of relief to such unfortunates. I obtained the Captain's consent, as far as it depended on him, for the removal to this side of women and children observed in hiding along shore. But he assured me, at the same time, that there were none such at present. Not one, although he did not attempt to conceal that a large number of women and children were congregated at Delvino, where Ibrahim Pasha, Commander of the land forces, had established his head-quarters, and over whom he had no jurisdiction, but he felt sure that those unfortunate creatures were well treated and cared for. He positively denied the burning of the villages, but let out the information that the Bashi-Bazouks had been disbanded and sent to their homes.

6. This intimation at once aroused my suspicions, and I requested our host to say whether he had any objection to our proceeding onward to Santi Quaranta, distant about an hour and a quarter. He at once gave his assent; I further ventured to request that he would allow his first Lieutenant to accompany us, as interpreter in case of need. To this he also assented, and we started forthwith.

7. We reached Santi Quaranta at 6 o'clock P.M., and on landing were received with all due honours by the Bimbashi in command of a battalion of regulars stationed at the port, the Collector of Customs, and the head of the Sanità Department.

In the course of conversation we received a *quasi* contradiction of the reported excesses, but they confessed that they had not absolute means of knowing what passed on the other side of the heights immediately above, and between the port and Delvino, three hours distance.

8. Nothing more could be made of it. Ibrahim Pasha was at Delvino and not to be got at. Nor at a less late hour could I have ventured without your Lordship's permission to trespass so far on the jurisdiction of my colleague of Janina.

But I remain painfully impressed with the conviction that the Bashi-Bazouks, on their way homeward, according to their invariable custom, may have plundered and burnt the villages mentioned in the inclosed list, some, if not all of them.

I shall be on the watch for correct information on this head, and report accordingly.

9. On our way back, we transferred Lieutenant Hassan Bey to the "Mahmoudié," and after complimentary adieus to her commander reached Corfu at 8 o'clock.

I trust your Lordship will be pleased to approve of these proceedings, which have not turned out wholly fruitless for the cause of humanity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 429.

M. Sadowsky to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Consulat Général de Russie dans les Iles Ioniennes,
Corfu, le 25 Février / 9 Mars, 1878.

EN vue d'une abstention forcée du doyen du Corps Consulaire, et sur sa délégation, le Soussigné a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de ses collègues, que des informations d'un caractère officiel étant venues confirmer en les complétant les bruits précédemment répandus sur les événements dont la côte voisine est le théâtre, il juge de son devoir de prier MM. les Consuls de vouloir bien se rencontrer chez lui aujourd'hui à midi, dans le but de prendre commissance de ces informations, et d'aviser en commun à la ligne de conduite à adopter.

Le Soussigné a jugé opportun de ne pas ajourner cette réunion, afin de donner à ses collègues, et de se réserver à lui-même la faculté de profiter du départ du bâteau pour rendre compte des résolutions qui pourraient être prises aux Légations respectives à Athènes.

(Signé) F. SADOWSKY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 429.

List of Names of Villages.

1. Supeki.
2. Kenurio.
3. Lazates.
4. Memushey.
5. Grara.
6. Chalio.
7. Chadiraga.
8. Karálibey.
9. Feniki.
10. Tsaussi.
11. Krania.
12. Kabiria Pasha.
13. Dirri.

No. 430.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 256. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, March* 17, 1878.

I HAVE informed M. Waddington, confidentially, of the substance of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Lord Odo Russell, respecting the German proposal for a preliminary Conference at Berlin.

I stated that Her Majesty's Government saw no advantage in such a Conference, so far as the question is concerned of the conditions on which they will join in a Congress and that they could hold out no expectation that their decision in this respect would be altered by any amount of discussion. I added that Her Majesty's Government doubted the usefulness of a preliminary Conference, but that they would await further explanations with reference to the questions proposed to be dealt with in such a Conference, and that they wished to know why it was thought better that such questions should not be reserved for the Congress.

As M. Waddington seemed doubtful whether the acceptance of the conditions demanded by Her Majesty's Government was a *sine qua non* with them before agreeing to enter into the Congress, I thought it right to inform his Excellency that your Lordship, as I had learned by telegraph, had asked Count Schouvaloff to try and obtain a positive reply in writing from Prince Gortchakow, as to whether the Russian Government agree to the conditions on which Her Majesty's Government must be assured before entering into the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 431.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March* 18.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* 26 Février / 9 Mars, 1878.

FAISANT suite à mes précédentes communications, je vous transmets, ci-joint, en traduction, la protestation que l'autorité insurrectionnelle de Pelion vient d'adresser aux Consuls résidants à Volo, à propos des atrocités commises par des Guégues et des soldats réguliers Ottomans dans le village de Bulgareni.

D'après ce que me rapporte notre Consul à Volo, les Consuls précités devaient communiquer ces documents à leurs Légations respectives.

En vous transmettant cette pièce, je vous prie de la communiquer au Cabinet auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et faire ressortir toute l'horreur des méfaits qui y sont rélatés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 431.

Traduction de la Protestation remise au Corps Consulaire de Volo par l'Autorité Insurrectionnelle de Pélion, en date du $\frac{14}{26}$ Février, 1878.

Nous avons l'honneur de vous informer avec une profonde douleur que, d'après des renseignements positifs donné aujourd'hui par le nommé Athanase Contzo, qui a échappé aux massacres de Bulgaréni, les Guégues, Zéibeks, et soldats réguliers commandés par Abat Agha dans le district d'Aya, sont entrés, le 9 courant, dans le village de Kokonva, ont pillé toutes les maisons, ont enlevé les troupeaux, et, après avoir assouvi leurs passions brutales sur les femmes et les vierges, ils se sont livrés aux actes les plus féroces.

A leur entrée dans le village de Bulgaréni, ils ont fait venir les primats du village, Grégoire Anagnosti, Dimitri-Mneri, Nicholas Bisbassi, Athanase Eustache, Georges Athanase, Jean Capa, Jean Mylona, et Théodore Christo, et, dès que ces malheureux se sont présentés, on les a décapités.

Ils ont mis la main sur vingt femmes et enfants qui s'étaient réfugiés dans les montagnes et dans les grottes. Leur sort est inconnu, et il est à présumer que ces malheureux victimes ont subi les mêmes affreux traitements que leurs compatriotes.

Les férocités des Musulmans ont produit une telle panique que les femmes et les enfants de plusieurs villages se sont réfugiés en masse dans les montagnes et les grottes environnantes, où ils sont exposés aux horreurs de la faim.

En dénonçant ces actes féroces des autorités Ottomanes de Larisse, nous vous prions, M. le Consul, au nom de l'humanité, de prendre des mesures nécessaires pour réprimer le mal et en même temps étendre votre sollicitude sur les femmes et les enfants qui meurent de faim, en les sauvant des mains de leurs oppresseurs et en leur fournissant des moyens de subsistance.

No. 432.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius. March* 18.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{25 \text{ Février}}{9 \text{ Mars}}$* 1878.

J'AI lu, dans le "Times" du 26 Février, le discours prononcé par Lord Derby le 25 du même mois dans la Chambre des Lords, discours dans lequel son Excellence a parlé des circonstances se rapportant à l'entrée de notre armée en Thessalie.

Ce recit est parfaitement exact, mais il a eu pour point de départ la communication que vous avez faite à Lord Derby, de l'ordre donné par le Gouvernement Royal au Général-en-chef de notre armée, d'arrêter la marche de nos troupes à l'endroit où elles se trouveraient au moment où cet ordre lui serait parvenu. Par conséquent, son Excellence n'a pas fait mention des représentations et exhortations itératives adressées au Gouvernement Royal par les Ministres des Grandes Puissances, représentations qui ont eu pour effet d'engager le Gouvernement Royal à donner au Général-en-chef de l'armée qui avait pénétré dans le territoire de l'Etat limitrophe, l'ordre d'en suspendre la marche en avant.

Nous ne mettons nullement en doute les sentiments de bienveillance dont les Grandes Puissances sont animées à notre égard, et nous sommes persuadés que c'est par suite de leur désir de prévenir les complications qui auraient résulté des hostilités projetées par la Porte contre le Royaume Hellénique, qu'elles ont chargé leurs Représentants à Athènes de nous adresser des conseils à ce sujet.

Mais tout en reconnaissant les dispositions bienveillantes des Grandes Puissances, nous croyons devoir constater que ce sont leurs Représentants à Athènes, qui ont pris l'initiative des exhortations adressées au Gouvernement Royal à l'effet de prévenir les complications qui leur paraissaient comme la conséquence probable de la mesure prise par le Gouvernement Royal de faire entrer ses troupes dans le territoire de l'Etat limitrophe. Quant au Gouvernement Royal non-seulement il n'a pas provoqué ces démarches, mais il n'a pas même donné immédiatement suite aux exhortations des Représentants des Grandes Puissances, en rappelant ses troupes. Il s'est borné à consentir à donner l'ordre à l'armée qui était entrée en Thessalie d'arrêter sa marche, et en même temps il a déclaré qu'il se conformerait aussi aux conseils concernant le rappel des troupes, si les Grandes Puissances voulaient bien garantir la sécurité des habitants des provinces Grecques de la Turquie et la protection de leurs droits.

En vous communiquant ces observations, je vous prie d'en entretenir Lord Derby, à la première entrevue que vous aurez avec sa Seigneurie, et je me plais à espérer qu'après ses explications, son Excellence voudra bien nous donner une nouvelle preuve

de sa bienveillance en complétant la partie de son discours qui a trait aux circonstances que nous venons de relater.

Veuillez agréer, &c.
(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

No. 433.

Memorandum communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 18.

(Private and Confidential.)

I QUITE agree with Lord Derby that it is extremely desirable for us to come to a mutual agreement about the line of policy that we are to follow out at the Congress, and therefore I am quite prepared to give him every sort of explanation about our line of policy and the arguments in its favour. Only for the present all my time is taken up by the Delegations, and therefore I cannot at this moment enter into details. As soon as ever the impediment offered by the Delegations has been removed, I shall enter into full particulars with Elliot, and I hope that the British Government will inform us of their line of policy with equal openness. Meanwhile I confine myself to the general observation that the task to be solved is in the main covered by the points already agreed to between us. I think, however, that a purely negative programme will not prove sufficient. We must, on the contrary, take a positive programme into our consideration. As tending in that direction, I look upon the idea of creating a counterpoise to the Slavonic element through the Greco-Albanian element. This idea would be, certainly, one of the points about which we ought to come to an agreement, and which I for one would countenance. Austria can, therefore, not wish to see England placing herself unreservedly on the side of Turkey. I am of opinion that it will soon become more and more apparent that all pending questions, such as the extension and occupation of Bulgaria, &c., &c., touch our mutual interests. At all events, your Excellency will set the minds of the British Government at rest on the topic of possible separate compensations for us. We are not inclined to compromise the joint interests of England and Austria by seizing any special object of compensation for ourselves.

It seems that Lord Lyons is still designated as English Envoy to the Congress. Your Excellency can say that—if Lord Derby cannot appear at the Congress, which would have best met our wishes—the choice of Lord Lyons is, from all I have heard about him, a very welcome one to me.

Vienna, March 16, 1878.

No. 434.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 311.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 17, 1878.

FRENCH and Austrian Ambassadors have been informed that Raouf Pasha, the Turkish Representative sent to St. Petersburgh, has been induced to agree to a Treaty of Alliance, offensive and defensive, favourable modifications of Russian demands being procured in return. They have so telegraphed, I believe, to their respective Governments. I have not heard anything trustworthy to confirm this report.

No. 435.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 312.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 17, 1878.

CAPTAIN HALE, of Her Majesty's ship "Flamingo," has to-day examined ships at Buyukdere. They consist of 1 merchant steamer fitted with 4 guns, 1 man-of-war and torpedo steam-ship fitted for carrying spar torpedoes, and probably "Whiteheads," with 4 torpedo steam-launches, 2 apparently very fast. There is also a spare engine for launch on board. "Erekli" steamer seems to have left since Thursday.

No. 436.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 17, 1878.*

I HAVE received to-day following Memorandum from Prince Gortchakow:—

"In reply to communication made by Lord A. Loftus of the despatch by which Lord Derby has replied to the proposal of Count Beust relating to the meeting of the Congress at Berlin, I have the honour to repeat the assurance which Count Schouvaloff has been already charged to give to Her Majesty's Government, viz., that the Preliminary Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey shall be textually communicated to the Great Powers before the meeting of the Congress, and that in the Congress itself each Power shall have the full liberty of its appreciations and of its action."

No. 437.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 18, 1878.*

THE ratifications of Treaty were exchanged yesterday. Copies of the Treaty will be sent to-day or to-morrow by messengers to Great Courts, but will not be officially published here till it has reached foreign Governments. Raouf Pasha has not yet called on me, although he called, with General Ignatiew, on the German Ambassador the day after his arrival. I have therefore sent him letters for Turkish prisoners received yesterday in your No. 215, and have informed him that I am relieved from further charge of Turkish interests and subjects.

No. 438.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 66. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of 13th March, I believe, from the scanty information I can obtain here, that the Russian army in Bulgaria is in a bad condition from sickness, Typhus very prevalent. Army material used up, in fact unfit at present moment to enter upon another campaign. There is a great want of officers for new lines making here. Many have been recalled from active army to supply this want.

I will forward by next messenger all the information in regard to Baltic ports required by Admiralty in your telegram of March 12.

No. 439.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 513.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 18, 1878.*

CAPTAIN HALL reports that Russian merchant-vessel, with large number of men on board and eighteen officers whom he could see, has just passed through the Bosphorus on the way to San Stefano. I had been informed of expected arrival of this vessel with torpedoes. There are now a great many Russian naval officers at San Stefano.

I keep Admiral Hornby informed.

No. 440.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 18, 1878.*

THE invitation to take part in the Congress has been sent to the Porte.

No. 441.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 18, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government will not consent to enter any preliminary Conference until they have received a satisfactory assurance as to the conditions on which they are prepared to join in a Congress.

With reference to your mention of the "three allied Governments," have you confident reason for believing that Austria is acting in concert with Russia and Germany as to the Congress and its results?

No. 442.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, March 18, 1878, 5·20 P.M.*

IT is proposed that Colonel Wellesley should return to his post. Do you see any reason to the contrary?

No. 443.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 18, 1878, 5·35 P.M.*

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from Greek Consul at Janina, stating that 200 Mussulman criminals have been released from prison by orders from Constantinople, and that they will be sent with released criminals from Arta and Prevesa to fight the insurgents in Epirus.

Ascertain from British Vice-Consul if this is true; and if so, remonstrate.

No. 444.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, stating that you had been informed that the object of the proposed preliminary Conference was the establishment of the order of business, with the view of saving time when the Congress itself should meet, I have to observe that Her Majesty's Government will not consent to enter any preliminary Conference until they shall have received a satisfactory assurance as to the conditions which they have laid down as those on which their joining in a Congress will depend.

As regards the remarks contained in your telegram that you had been informed confidentially that the "three allied Governments" are making certain arrangements for the regulation of the subjects to be discussed, I should wish you to report whether you have confident reason for believing that Austria is acting in concert with Russia and Germany as regards the Congress, and the results to be expected from it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 445.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 2. Political.)

Damascus, March 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a considerable immigration of Bulgarian refugees, chiefly Circassian, to Syria is taking place, and is being directed by the provincial authorities to various parts of the vilayet, all situated on the eastern border, where waste lands are to be given to them for their support.

Two colonies of Circassians already exist in Syria, one near Horus, and the other at Kuneitrah, overhanging the Jordan valley in the east, each numbering about 300 to 400 souls.

They date from six years, and their present position is both instructive and suggestive as bearing upon the present immigration.

The colony near Horus is located among the sedentary Arabs to the east of the town, with whom it soon came in conflict by reason of its savagery and turbulent conduct. Many were killed on both sides in isolated conflicts; the number of the colonists has been much reduced by epidemics; and their condition is far from prosperous. They are both detested and feared by the natives.

At Kuneitrah, where the colony is located among the ruins of that name, now the seat of a Kaimakam, the same thing occurred, save that instead of sedentary Arabs the colonists found themselves face to face with Druzes, Bedouin, Turkoman, and other wild tribes who, whatever their private feuds may have been, made common cause against the intruder, and speedily circumscribed his powers for good or evil to the raising of cattle, and to the cultivation of a little land under the nominal protection afforded by the seat of Government. I visited them last year. Surrounded by a hostile population their position is wretched and their numbers decreasing.

The semi-barbarous populations of these Eastern border lands where these new colonies are being planted acknowledge no master, except when some too open defiance of Imperial authority necessitate a display of overwhelming force, and bring about on rare occasions a chastisement to be forgotten at the first opportunity.

The few Christians to be found in these regions are too much assimilated by race, language, and common interest to their Moslem brethren to fear much from this incursion.

A large number have been sent to the Mutessariflik of the Belka (Moab) to the east of Jordan, the vast plains of which are inhabited when the season permits, and claimed as a rightful inheritance by the powerful and unruly Bedouin tribes of the Beni-Saka, Sirhan, Beni-Khalid, Adwan, Beni-Hassan and others, who bear the worst possible character in Syria.

Many hundreds of these Circassians have recently arrived in Damascus *en route* for Kuneitrah and the plains of Dumair, five hours north-east of Damascus, where fertile waste lands abound, but with the disadvantage of pernicious fevers in summer and autumn.

They are housed in the mosques and medressés of the city; are suffering severely from virulent small-pox; and are being maintained by the provincial Government, which is levying a forced tax of 4 piastres per head on the registered male population of the vilayet for the expenses of the immigration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 446.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 3. Political.)

Damascus, March 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, announcing the arrival of the newly appointed Governor-General of Syria, and the departure of the Commander-in-Chief.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 446.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Layard.

Damascus, March 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Djevdet Pasha, the newly appointed Governor-General of Syria, arrived here on the 1st instant, taking over from Izzet Pasha, the Mushir, the Civil Government of the province, which this latter functionary had held in conjunction with his military duties since June last.

Izzet Pasha, the Mushir, left immediately afterwards for Constantinople, to sit, it is stated, as member of the Commission to try the accused Turkish Generals.

Nazif Pasha, President of the Military Council, remains as acting Mushir.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 447.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Odessa, March 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that General Prince Dondaukoff-Korsakoff, formerly Governor-General of Kieff, and lately commanding the 13th Corps in Bulgaria, has been appointed Governor-General of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 448.

Prince Gortchakow to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Schouvaloff, March 19.)

(Télégraphique.)

St. Pétersbourg, le 7/19 Mars, 1878.

NOTRE opinion est que les Puissances signataires du Traité de Paris devraient être les seules parties intégrantes du Congrès; d'autres Etats, dont les intérêts s'y rattacheraient, pourraient être représentés par des Délégues consultatifs.

No. 449.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

Mon cher Comte,

Londres, le 19 Mars, 1878.

JE me suis empressé de communiquer au Chancelier Prince Gortchakow, par le télégraphe, la teneur de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 16 Mars courant.

Le Prince me charge de vous réitérer que le Traité de Paix conclu entre la Russie et la Turquie, le seul qui existe, car nous n'avons aucun engagement secret, sera communiqué au Gouvernement de la Reine en entier, et bien avant la réunion du Congrès.

Le Gouvernement de la Reine, ainsi que les autres Grandes Puissances, se réservent au Congrès leur pleine liberté d'appréciation et d'action.

Cette même liberté, qu'elle ne conteste pas aux autres, la Russie se révendique pour elle-même; or, ce serait la restreindre, si, seule entre toutes les Puissances, la Russie contractait un engagement préalable.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 450.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 18, 1878.*

PRINCE GORTCHAKOW, in telling the Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that Count Schouvaloff had been instructed to inform Her Majesty's Government that the Treaty would be officially communicated to them, and that each Plenipotentiary would have the power of commenting on every part of it, added that the "discussion of every point was thus admitted, and 'sous entendu.'"

Baron Langenau reports that General Ignatiew accompanies Prince Gortchakow to Berlin as second Plenipotentiary.

No. 451.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 18, 1878.*

I READ to Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday your Lordship's telegram of the 16th instant to Lord O. Russell, respecting proposed Conference of second Plenipotentiaries or Representatives at Berlin, and in the afternoon his Excellency gave verbal answer to the following effect:—

Having resigned he could not take any formal engagements, but nevertheless felt at liberty to state that, provided the Preliminary Conference was confined to clearing the ground for the Congress, to discussing questions of form and procedure without touching any principle, the Italian Government would not decline to take part in it if the other Governments agree to do so.

His Excellency hopes that under the same conditions Her Majesty's Government may assent to it. He quite understands their making the production of the whole Treaty a condition of their attending the Congress, but thinks that the question as to what Articles are to be discussed might be reserved for the Congress itself to decide.

The Russian Ambassador having questioned M. Depretis about the admission of Greece to the Congress, he expressed, as his personal opinion, that she should be admitted as the natural Representative of Greek populations in Turkey.

Very serious difficulties in the formation of a new Ministry.

No. 452.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1878.*

I CONSIDER that it would be desirable for Colonel Wellesley to defer his return here till result of Congress is known. Feeling here among all classes very hostile to England and the English.

No. 453.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 68 ?. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1878.*

I AM informed that 300 Krupp field-guns reached St. Petersburgh a few days ago, and 200 similar guns have been received at Warsaw. Their calibres are 10 and $8\frac{7}{10}$ centimètres. Imperial works here have received orders for 1,200 steel field-pieces, which cannot be completed sooner than three years. Government contemplates calling out militia first-class, representing on paper 600,000 men. They will be raw recruits, and not available for active service for several months. It is calculated that about 300,000 reserve or furlough men were nominally available at the beginning of the year, but really only half this number may be considered at disposal of military authorities, as half has been already taken for reserves.

I am told that a portion of the Caucasus army is to be transferred to Poland.

No. 454.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1878.*

I RECEIVED a rather cool reply from Raouf Pasha yesterday, stating that he was to leave St. Petersburgh to-day, requesting me to continue charge of Turkish subjects and interests till appointment of a definite Ambassador, and returning me the Turkish letters. I declined his request, and sent him back the letters.

It is evidently to Russian influence that his want of courtesy in not visiting Her Majesty's Ambassador is to be attributed.

No. 455.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 19, 1878.*

TURKISH Ambassador left to-day. As far as I can learn, there has been no Treaty, offensive or defensive, signed with Turkey, nor has the Turkish indemnity been diminished by the Emperor.

Official arguments here against any secret engagements are—first, that their secrecy could not be ensured; secondly, that Russia, having complete hold on Turkey feels confident that the Porte must look to Russian alliance as a political necessity.

No. 456.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 18, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS still insists upon occupying Buyukderé to embark part of his troops. Porte has again refused to-day, offering to undertake the embarkation itself and at its own expense from San Stefano. Russians appear to be preparing for a forward movement. If they occupy Buyukderé the water-supply of Constantinople will be entirely in their hands. The heights above Kavak will probably be occupied by a division of Turkish troops. I am informed that a Russian advance will not be opposed by force, but that Porte will protest.

No. 457.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 316.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 19, 1878.*

RAOUF PASHA has telegraphed to Porte that Lord A. Loftus, having sent him all papers connected with Turkish matters, and having given up charge of Turkish interests, he wished for instructions. I informed the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs that Raouf Pasha had called upon the German Ambassador with General Ignatiew, and had not up to 17th called on Lord A. Loftus.

They expressed the greatest surprise and regret, and offered apology, saying that Raouf Pasha should be made to understand impropriety of his conduct. They believe him to be entirely in the hands of General Ignatiew, who may have made him act as he has done.

I cannot learn that any concessions or modifications of terms of peace have been made by the Emperor of Russia as was expected here.

No. 458.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19.)

(No. 19. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Berlin, March 19, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I have been confidentially informed that Count Andrassy is acting in concert with Prince Bismarck and Prince Gortchakow as to the Congress and its results, but asks them to help him out of the false position he is in, between Hungary, who is ready for a conflagration, and the Emperor, who wishes for a compromise and the annexation of Bosnia.

In return for such concessions respecting the size of Bulgaria and the time of its occupation by Russian troops as could be proclaimed in Hungary as a triumph of his policy in the Congress, Count Andrassy is said to declare himself otherwise ready to accept the Turco-Russian Treaty.

No. 459.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 19, 4·45 P.M.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, March 19, 1878, 2·45 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has not received from Constantinople information of the offensive and defensive Treaty having been signed by Raouf Pasha at St. Petersburgh.

He received last night a telegram from the French Ambassador at Constantinople that the Porte, after Council of Ministers had been held, had refused request for Russian troops to embark at Buyukdéré.

No. 460.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 19, 1878, 4·45 P.M.

UNLESS Sir A. Kemball is required to remain at Constantinople for the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission, he should come home at once, as Her Majesty's Government may require his advice with regard to the discussions on the Treaty of Peace.

No. 461.

The Earl of Derby to Sir Elliot.

(No. 204. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 19, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a Memorandum, communicated to me yesterday by Count Beust, respecting the line of policy to be pursued by Austria-Hungary at the Congress.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 462.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 8. Political.)

Foreign Office, March 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Despatch No. 28, Political, of March 4th, reporting that you had sanctioned Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo's intervention between the authorities and the Insurgent Chiefs in Crete, with a view to the revictualling of the garrison at Vamos without opposition; and I have to convey to you my approval of your pro-

* No. .

ceedings, and to request you to inform Mr. Vice-Consul Moazzo that I have heard with satisfaction of the success of his efforts to prevent bloodshed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 463.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 210. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, March 15, 1878.

HAVING called upon M. Depretis yesterday afternoon, principally with the object of hearing if any progress had been made towards the formation of the new Ministry, his Excellency at once proceeded to read a telegram he had received from General Menabrea, in which, with other information, he stated that your Lordship had expressed the desire of Her Majesty's Government of acting with that of Italy in regard to Eastern affairs, and that instructions had been sent to me to come to an understanding with the Italian Government on this subject.

I informed M. Depretis that I had, in fact, received instructions upon the subject referred to, but that, as I presumed his Excellency would not now feel authorized to enter upon the question seriously, I would not trouble him with details. I added, however, that I might state in general terms that Her Majesty's Government was desirous of arriving at an understanding with the Italian Government, and some other Governments which have the same interests, as to the best method of securing the maintenance of our commercial and political interests in the Mediterranean, the Straits, and the Black Sea, in the view of the changes likely to occur in the balance of power from the changes which the recent war and the arrangements consequent upon it might bring about.

M. Depretis replied that it was true that he could now only speak on this or any other question as a private individual, or as a simple deputy in the Italian Parliament, but as such he might say that the idea commended itself to him and that he would speak in its favour to his successor.

His Excellency proceeded to say that he did not think there would be any difficulty in Italy and England coming to an understanding on such a subject. He felt pretty sure that his successor, whom he thought was likely to be M. Farini, held the same opinion as himself, and would continue his policy.

Of the other Mediterranean Powers, M. Depretis expressed the opinion that France would continue to observe the strictest reserve.

What did we know about Austria? his Excellency inquired.

This Power, he observed, had certainly recently shown a disposition to act with Italy. In point of fact, the Austrian Ambassador had come to make him a proposal in this sense on the part of his Government.

I asked M. Depretis when this proposal had been made, and in what it consisted? whether it was general in its nature, or limited to united action at the Conference or Congress?

His Excellency replied that the communication had been made to him the day before he had resigned; it was made in the sort of vague and reticent terms in which it was always the habit of Baron Haymerle to speak, but it amounted to this—that the Austrian Government was desirous of the concert of Italy, not only in the Conference, but generally in regard to the affairs of the East, and in replying to it, M. Depretis said he had expressed the readiness of the Italian Government to meet the wishes of the Austrian Government, but that he had thought it right to point out that there was one difficulty in the way of Italy supporting the Austrian views, viz., the intention attributed to Austria of occupying Bosnia, &c., and his Excellency then proceeded to repeat to me his conversation with Baron Haymerle on this subject, apparently oblivious that he had done so before.

I therefore reminded his Excellency that he had already related to me what he had said to Baron Haymerle about Bosnia, and I had reported it, I said, to your Lordship; but he had never mentioned that these observations had been made in reply to a proposal made by the Austrian Government that the two Governments should follow the same policy, that this was a most important circumstance, and that I could not but express my deep regret that it had been concealed from me. Unless there was the utmost frankness and unreserve in our communications, I said, it was evident

that we should end by being all at cross-purposes, and instead of our coming to any agreements, we should fall into the most complete confusion, and perhaps something worse.

M. Depretis made some excuse for this reticence, by saying that the day after he had seen Baron Haymerle he had given in his resignation, and that he had consequently not been in a position to follow up the Austrian proposal, though he had at once called on the Austrian Ambassador and told him that he was sure that whoever succeeded him would be guided by the same principles of foreign policy.

I told M. Depretis that some days previously I had, in his Excellency's absence from the Ministry, acquainted Count Tornielli that Count Zichy had been instructed by his Government to declare to the Porte that there was no foundation for the rumours that Austria intended to enter and take possession of Bosnia, and I asked his Excellency if he had not been informed of this by Count Tornielli.

His Excellency replied that he had not, and on my expressing surprise and annoyance, he alleged as an excuse for Count Tornielli, that he had been much occupied in arranging his papers (for it seems he is to withdraw with the Ministry), and that it had thus probably escaped his recollection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 464.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 213. Confidential.)
Rome, March 16, 1878.

My Lord,

AT an official dinner given on the King's birthday, the 14th instant, by the President of the Council, Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Cairoli was present in his quality as President of the Chamber of Deputies, and I took the opportunity of making his acquaintance, and of having some conversation with him.

One of his first observations was that he had seen with pleasure that Her Majesty's Government had put forward the cause of Greece by advocating her admission to the Congress. The claims of Greece, he said, ought certainly to be taken into consideration in any new arrangements which were to be made in the East, and he was therefore of opinion that a Greek Representative ought to be admitted to the Congress.

The Greek Chargé d'Affaires tells me that M. Cairoli spoke to him in the same sense. M. Cairoli indeed seemed almost surprised when I told him that the Italian Government had not yet agreed to support the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this question, but I explained to him that I had made the communication to M. Depretis after he had given his resignation, and that his Excellency, although expressing a personal opinion in favour of the course pursued by Her Majesty's Government, had not felt authorized to take an engagement which might embarrass the incoming Government.

I then informed M. Cairoli that I had found M. Depretis desirous of acting in concert with Her Majesty's Government in the affairs of the East, and that I trusted that if he (M. Cairoli) came into office, he would equally see that Italy and England had the same interests to defend. Those interests, I said, might in general terms be described as consisting in not allowing a change in the balance of power hitherto maintained as to communications between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, as a consequence of the war or of arrangements attending its termination.

M. Cairoli having said that he considered Italy quite as much interested as England in this question, I replied that under these circumstances I should have a distinct proposal to make to him in the above sense if he came into office, to which M. Cairoli answered that he would be glad to receive it.

He then informed me that he felt pretty sure of succeeding in forming a Ministry, though he encountered a good many difficulties. He seemed fully impressed with the importance at the present juncture of bringing his arrangements to an issue as speedily as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 465.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)
Rome, March 16, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS informed me to-day that he wished to tell me in strict confidence that the German Ambassador had called at the Ministry, and not finding him had made a communication to Count Tornielli to the following effect:—

The German Government accepts the proposal for a Congress at Berlin, but are of opinion that before sending out the invitations, it would be desirable that the Governments should agree that the conditions on which the Conference should meet and be conducted should form the subject of preliminary discussions between the second Plenipotentiaries or the resident Ambassadors. The questions they would have to resolve would be those of form and procedure, the first of them being the manner of election of the President, in the event of Prince Bismarck being unable either at all, or at any time, to assume these functions.

M. Depretis said that if I had not called on him, he was coming to see me, in order to ascertain if I had heard anything from Her Majesty's Government on this subject, as he was anxious, up to the last day of his holding office, of acting in concert with Her Majesty's Government.

I told his Excellency that I had received no instructions whatever in regard to this proposed preliminary meeting; that all I knew was that Her Majesty's Government had laid down as a *sine qua non* condition of their entering the Congress at all, that the whole of the Treaty between Russia and Turkey should be produced, and that unless this condition was accepted, it did not seem to me likely that Her Majesty's Government would take part in any preparations for a Congress which eventually they might not attend. I said, however, that I would telegraph and inquire.

M. Depretis said he would not be able to await the reply, as he was being pressed to take a decision, but the answer he would give would be a very safe one. He should say that, provided of course no questions were touched in these preparatory meetings but those of pure form and procedure, the Italian Government would have no objection to authorize their Ambassador at Berlin to take part in them.

His Excellency said that he had spoken to M. Cairoli on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 466.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 216. Confidential.)
Rome, March 16, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DEPRETIS again asked me this morning if I had not received instructions as to the policy which Her Majesty's Government intended to follow in the Congress in regard to the principal questions likely to come under discussion. What were their views as to the limits of Bulgaria? How was the extension of the Slav element, or, in other words, the power of Russia, to be opposed? What arrangements did they think would be most suitable for the interests of England and Italy in regard to the navigation of the Straits by ships of war? These were only some, he said, of the main points which occurred to him on the spur of the moment. But if the two Governments were to act together in the Congress, it was absolutely indispensable that there should be an exchange of communications between them preliminary to it.

Personally he had himself only an indirect interest in this matter now, but he was anxious to do what he could to facilitate the task of his successor, who, he believed, would be in office in a day or two, and would wish to follow the same policy as he had done himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 467.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 263.)
Paris, March 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Layard's telegram of the 17th instant, repeated to me by your Lordship yesterday, to the effect that the French and Austrian Ambassadors at Constantinople had been informed that Raouf Pasha had signed an offensive and defensive Treaty at St. Petersburgh on certain conditions; M. Waddington informed me to-day that he had not received any information of the kind from M. Fournier.

M. Waddington went on to say that he had received a telegram last night from M. Fournier that the Porte, after a Council of Ministers had been held, had refused permission for Russian troops to embark at Buyukdére.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 468.

M. Gennadius to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

M. GENNADIUS presents his compliments to the Earl of Derby, and, in continuation of a telegram communicated to his Lordship on the 16th instant, begs to submit the copy of a further telegraphic despatch from Athens.

64, *Pall Mall, March 19, 1878.*

Inclosure in No. 468.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.

(Télégraphique.)
Athènes, le 18 Mars, soir.

TRENTE-CINQ forçats détenus dans les prisons de Larisse viennent d'être relachés. La mesure du Vali de Janina d'ouvrir les prisons aux criminels a promptement servi d'exemple en Thessalie. On télégraphie que le but principal de cette mesure est d'expédier ces malfaiteurs en petites troupes en Grèce même.

No. 469.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 19, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, I have been unable to obtain any trustworthy information as to sanitary condition of Russian army. It is generally reported to be very bad, especially to the north of the Balkans, typhus and dysentery prevailing.

Consul Blunt reports 4,000 sick at Adrianople. From all accounts Russian troops are greatly in want of supplies.

No. 470.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, March 20, 1878.

THE Hungarian Delegation voted unanimously yesterday afternoon the credit of 60,000,000 florins demanded by the Government.

No. 471.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 20, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE received the following from Count Schouvaloff:—

"Prince Gortchakoff instructs me to repeat that the Treaty of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey, the only one that exists between us since we have no secret engagement, will be communicated to Her Majesty's Government in entirety, and well before the meeting of the Congress.

"Her Majesty's Government, as well as the other Great Powers, reserve their full liberty of appreciation and action at the Congress.

"Russia claims for herself this same liberty which she does not deny to the others; it would be to restrict her if, along among all the Powers, Russia contracted a preliminary engagement."

No. 472.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 318.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 20, 1878.

I AM informed that the Grand Duke has submitted the question of the occupation of Buyukdéré to the Emperor.

No. 473.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 319.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, March 20, 1878.

SULTAN and Prime Minister have begged me to express their great regret to your Lordship at the conduct of Raouf Pasha in not calling upon Lord A. Loftus, and to ask your Lordship to beg Lord A. Loftus to overlook the want of proper respect shown to him, which they attribute to the evil counsels of General Ignatieff. They trust that Lord A. Loftus will kindly continue to take charge of Turkish interests, and are most grateful to him for the services he has already rendered to Turkey. Sultan is exceedingly annoyed at what has occurred, and wished to order Raouf Pasha to offer an apology to Lord A. Loftus.

Prime Minister tells me that, notwithstanding promises given at San Stefano, no concessions have been made by the Emperor.

No. 474.

Consul Sir C. Scbright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 20.)

(Telegraphic.)
Corfu, March 20, 1878.

INSURRECTION in Epirus quashed out, but Admiral Hornby disapproves of action of "Rapid," and reports Commander to the Admiralty. I am responsible, not the Commander. I ask that he may be held blameless. He has behaved nobly.

No. 475.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Ambassadors and Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, March 20, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

WITH reference to representation of Greece at Congress, Prince Gortchakow has telegraphed to Count Schouvaloff that opinion of Russian Government is that the Signatory Powers should be the only integral parts of the Congress, and that other States whose interests are concerned might be represented by consultative Delegates.

No. 476.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 153.)
Foreign Office, March 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 207 of the 14th instant, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the note which you have addressed to Signor Depretis, and of which you inclose a copy, recording the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the representation of Greece in the proposed Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 477.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

Foreign Office, March 20, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a letter which I have received from the Russian Ambassador at this Court, relative to the question of the submission to the Congress of the Treaty of Peace between Russia and the Porte.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 478.

*The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.**

Foreign Office, March 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your Excellency's information, the accompanying copy of a telegram from Prince Gortchakow, which has been communicated to me by the Russian Ambassador at this Court, relating to the question of the representation at the approaching Congress of Greece and the other Minor States whose interests are concerned.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 479.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 27. Political.)
Scutari, March 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Rizah Pasha, the Turkish Member of the Delimitation Commission, returned here last night, Prince Nicholas having telegraphed to Vir Bazaar that the conclusion of peace had rendered it unnecessary for the Commission to prosecute its work further. Only two official sittings had been held by the Commission, and the military position has been left unaltered, as the delimitation has not been completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* Also to other Embassies. † No. 449. ‡ No. 448.

No. 480.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Scutari, March 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Montenegrin Government will not allow the Turks the free navigation of the Boyana waters from San Giorgiu to the mouth of the river at San Nicolo, although peace has been concluded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 481.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 29. Political.)
Canea, Crete, March 10, 1878.

My Lord,

THE truce between the local authorities and the insurgents, the conclusion of which I had the honour to report in my last despatch, has met with no interruption. Costaki Pasha proclaimed throughout the surrounding districts that the Christian inhabitants might enter the town without fear of molestation, and guards of soldiers have been placed on the various roads in order to insure their safety. Confidence has thus to a certain extent revived, and the Christian peasantry, who were suffering great privations, are now to be seen thronging the stores of the provision dealers and carrying away food for their families. The scarcity, amounting almost to famine, prevailing in the interior, is the secret of the readiness shown by the insurgents to agree to a suspension of hostilities, and offers the best security against their repetition.

The Vali, meanwhile, has ordered Vamos, the Government head-quarters in Apokorona, to be evacuated. It appears that the troops stationed there had desecrated the parish church, and had pillaged and wrecked some houses in the village, so that Costaki Pasha, fearing that a repetition of such scenes might provoke the Chiefs to resume hostilities, thought it prudent to withdraw the garrison, which amounted to 1,100 men, Nikolaki Pasha, the Mutessarif of Sphakia, accompanying them to town. Simultaneously there came the news that the other Christian Mutessarif in Crete, who has his head-quarters at Neapolis, in Lasethé, had abandoned that village and had retired with the handful of troops which guarded him to the fortress of Spina Longa. No reason has been assigned for his flight beyond his natural timidity of character, as the inhabitants of that end of the island have shown no disposition to resort to violence. Costaki Pasha shows some indignation at his subordinate's inexplicable desertion of his post, and leaves to-day for Rethymo, Candia, and the districts further east, where he will learn the motives for the Mutessarif's departure.

There is now no place in the interior of Crete where the authority of the Government is recognized. One after another their positions have been abandoned, and the numerous functionaries engaged in the civil administration are congregated in the towns and have been informed that their services for the present are not required. Their salaries are in all cases hopelessly in arrears, and, like the rest of the population, they are in a state of destitution. The zaptiés, who some time ago were put on short rations, are again receiving the full allowance of 4½ oz. of bread a day, and a month's pay has been served out to them. In spite of the hard treatment they receive, the conduct of these Albanians is on the whole excellent, though there is naturally some relaxation of zeal in the discharge of their duties. The newly-enrolled volunteers, who have been armed with Peabody-Martini rifles, are by no means so well conducted. A few days ago a party of them forced an entry into the Church of Galata, a large village near here, subjected the building to foul, unseemly treatment, and broke open several graves within the sacred precincts, scattering the bones in all directions. The officer commanding the regular troops stationed there was so indignant at their proceedings that he now allows none of these men to enter the village.

The "Panhellenion" has made a third successful run to the coast of Crete, having landed three days ago in Kissamos arms and provisions, with about 100 volunteers. Another vessel landed 240 sacks of flour. The Ottoman cruisers have not yet succeeded in intercepting a single vessel, the capture I reported about a month

ago on the authority of the Vali not having really taken place, his Excellency having been misinformed. The cruisers are now short of coal, and lie idle in Suda Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—The news has just come that the Sphakians have burnt the newly-erected, but unfinished palace at Vamos, the construction of which cost nearly 5,000*l*. It appears that when they arrived and saw so many houses of the Christians destroyed, and particularly the indignities to which the departing soldiery had subjected the village church, which they had used as a privy, their indignation could not be restrained, and in their anger they fired the palace.

T. B. S.

No. 482.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 12, 1878

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have just received from Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherinos, describing the condition of affairs in the town and district of Candia. From Rethymo the news is more reassuring, Costaki Pasha having arrived there and having banished two influential Mussulmans who had instigated the late attacks on the Christian villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 482.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Consul Sandwith.

Sir, *Candia, Crete, March* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to state that after my letter of the 23rd ultimo by the last post to Canea, more robberies and disorders have been and are still committed by the Turks in the neighbourhood of this fortress against the Christian peasants who arrive here from their villages to buy barley and provisions. The local authorities do not allow now the Christian peasants to buy more than 15 okes of barley for each family. Nevertheless, we have great abundance of grain and barley.

The Turks have also profaned a church at the village Kasitics in Temenos, and another at Pedeada, and have committed many injuries to the houses and landed properties. On the other hand the Christian Chiefs in the provinces have assembled many armed men in order to protect the Christian villagers who come in town to buy provisions.

The military authorities have sent the troops stationed at Mires (about 300 soldiers) to Hierapetra by two steamers through Matalla, and those stationed at Axedi to Hagios Myron, where remains the Kaïmakam, as well as in Castelli of Pedeada. The Kaïmakam of Mires and Pyrgos, with all the employés, came into town.

The troops stationed in Mallia of Pedeada (120 soldiers) came also into town.

Last week arrived here also 600 soldiers, Mustafiz and Redifs, by the Government steamer "Ismalieh" from Gallipoli. We have now in this town about 1,100 soldiers. The troops stationed at Neapolis of Mirabello (about 400 soldiers) have, as it is stated, been sent to the fortress of Spinalonga, where arrived also, as I hear, the Mutessarif of Lasithion. This, however, is not certain.

The extraordinary police tribunal does not work properly on account of difficulties presented by the Turkish members.

The Government has decided to form a body of mixed gendarmes at Pedeada. The inhabitants also of Archanes have asked to be allowed to form a body of mixed gendarmes for their own protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. A. CALOCHERINO.

No. 483.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 31. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that 12 battalions of regular troops have arrived here during the last three days from Constantinople. They average about 400 men each, thus making a total of 4,800. 600 troops have also been landed at Candia and 250 in Rethymo. Osman Nouri Pasha, General of Division, accompanied the troops and is in command of all the regular forces in the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 484.

Consul R. Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Varna, March* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith inclosed, copy of a despatch I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, relative to the kidnapping by Circassians of Christian children.

I am in almost daily communication with the Governor-General who is here, and who has promised to take all the necessary means for the recovery of any Christian children that may be clandestinely brought here by Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, March* 9, 1878.

I DEEM it my duty to inform your Excellency that kidnapping of Christian girls is being committed in this vilayet by Circassians.

When lately at Shumla I was informed of nine cases. I at once urgently represented to the Kaïmakam. Eight girls being in the immediate vicinity were recovered in a very short time, but as one was already on her way to Varna, I got the Kaïmakam to send off a Yuzbashi with several zaptiehs and two Bulgarians (who knew the girl), in zaptieh uniforms, in search of her. She was recovered near Varna, and at my instance sent back to her parents at Shumla.

I have now heard of four or five other girls who are said to be in the possession of Circassians close to Varna, and the Vali yesterday promised that every effort should be made to recover them, but as I have very little faith in such promises from Turkish authorities, I would strongly recommend that peremptory instructions on the subject be quickly sent by the Porte to the Vali here, otherwise many of these poor girls may be taken away by the Circassians, who are being removed from this to Constantinople and Asia.

I shall in the meantime continue to give all my attention to this subject, and will, as far as I can, keep the Vali to his promise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 485.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 21.)

(No. 213. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, March* 17, 1878.

ALTHOUGH I am not yet acquainted with the policy Her Majesty's Government intend to pursue, I venture to submit to your Lordship the reasons for which I

am inclined to think that the pending discussion of the Eastern question in the coming Congress is more likely to be formal than real.

Setting aside all illusions in the matter, it must be admitted first, that Russia is in possession of Turkey, and secondly, that the Treaties of 1856 and 1871 have been practically superseded by the Turco-Russian Treaty of San Stefano.

That Treaty will be recommended to the acceptance of Europe by Russia, and will form the real bases of discussion in the coming Congress.

Germany, as we already know, will give it her cordial support. The Emperor and Prince Bismarck look upon the Treaty of San Stefano as an accomplished fact, and consider the Congress as the means to obtain its recognition by the Signatory Powers of the Treaties it is to supersede.

Russia and Germany will therefore act in concert as allies and relations in the Congress.

The next question to consider is whether France is at present in a position to take an impartial view of the Treaty in question.

France has long wished to be allied with Russia, and relieved of the threat of another war with Germany.

The Congress will offer France a valuable opportunity of securing the goodwill of both Russia and Germany by a friendly support of their united wishes.

There are no French interests involved in the Treaty of San Stefano likely to necessitate a quarrel with Russia, but many reasons to avoid one in the general interest of France.

Since M. Waddington's accession to office and Comte de St. Vallier's appointment to Berlin great efforts have been made to improve the relations of France with Germany, and the sudden and unexpected permission granted to German artists to participate in the Paris Exhibition is a signal proof of the success of the overtures already made by the new French Government.

Before adhering to the proposed Congress France has already made certain conditions with Russia and Germany. She has asked that Egypt, Syria, the Holy Places, &c., should not be alluded to, and may well hold out some prospect of support in return for the favour asked.

We may fairly, therefore, assume that France is not in a position to take an entirely impartial view of Eastern affairs, and that she will think to serve her own interest best by placing her voice at the disposal of Russia and Germany in the Congress.

Italy might give an independent vote, if she attached less importance to the goodwill of Russia and Germany she has laboured long to acquire.

In any case Prince Gortchakow and Prince Bismarck will not find it difficult to keep Italy from taking sides with Austria, if Austria should persist in taking a line of her own in opposition to Russia and Germany.

No doubt the new Ministry in Italy may adopt a new policy, but the chances are that Italy will think it more prudent for her future interests to support Russia, Germany, and France united, than Austria in the Congress.

Austria, on the other hand, has already declared her intention to resist the pretensions of Russia, and will, no doubt, object to the proposed limits of the new Principality of Bulgaria and to the prolonged occupation of Turkish territory by Russian troops.

If Russia, by Germany's friendly advice, consents to a smaller Bulgaria and a shorter occupation, Austria will make the most of the victory obtained and in return will agree to the rest of the Treaty of San Stefano. But if Russia refuses, Austria must choose between accepting a diplomatic defeat or going to war to turn Russia out of Bulgaria.

To prevent war between his allies, and to keep the Northern Alliance together, Prince Bismarck will exert his personal influence to bring about a compromise, and will urge the annexation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austria.

Whether Austria will accept the compromise or go to war, must depend very much on the attitude of England; but the chances are in favour of the compromise, because Count Andrassy's war policy has not the support of his Emperor, or of His Majesty's non-Hungarian subjects.

Austria is poor, weak, and dependent on her neighbours, and public opinion is growing more favourable to peace and provinces than to war, and its risks and consequences.

Russia and Germany have it in their power to neutralize the opposition of Austria if they choose, and it is more than probable that they will exercise that power when the Conference meets.

Taking all in all, therefore, the relative position of the Powers does not seem to warrant much independence of discussion in the coming Congress, and the Treaty of San Stefano, with some modifications, has a fair chance of superseding the Treaties of 1856 and 1871, unless, of course, England adopts a policy calculated to command the support of Austria, Turkey, France, and Italy, or declines to attend the Congress, when the Eastern question will remain open to discussion and some future settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 486.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 78.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 21, 1878.*

I HAVE reason to believe the Austrian Government have been for some days in possession of the conditions of the Treaty.

This tends to confirm Lord Odo Russell's secret telegram of yesterday respecting concert between Count Andrassy, Prince Bismarck, and Prince Gortchakow.

Austrian Government appear confident that Russia will not insist on the extent proposed for Bulgaria.

No. 487.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 319.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 18th instant, following telegram has been received from Vice-Consul at Prevesa, dated yesterday:—

"114 criminals were released at Janina on the 9th instant to serve as irregulars. There are no criminals at Prevesa and Arta."

No. 488.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated a telegram from his Government, stating that thirty-five convicts have been released from the prisons at Larissa, with the object of sending them in small bands into Greece.

No. 489.

The Earl of Derby to Her Majesty's Embassies.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878, 4·45 P.M.*

I HAVE informed Count Schouvaloff, in answer to his communication of the 19th instant, that Her Majesty's Government cannot recede from the position already clearly defined by them, that they must distinctly understand before they can enter into Congress that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the other Powers and what do not.

Her Majesty's Government are unable to accept the view now put forward by Prince Gortchakow, that the freedom of opinion and action in Congress of Russia, more than of any other Power, would be restricted by this preliminary understanding.

I have therefore asked, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, whether the Russian Government are willing that the communication of the Treaty "en entier" to the various Powers shall be treated as a placing of the Treaty before the Congress,

in order that the whole Treaty, in its relation to existing Treaties, may be examined and considered by the Congress.

No. 490.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 71.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 21, 1878, 4·55 P.M.*

TREATY of Peace, in twenty-nine Articles, was published officially to-day. Following chief Articles:—I fixes future frontier between Turkey and Montenegro. II and III recognize independence of Montenegro and Servia. V. Roumanian independence. VI. Bulgaria to form autonomous tributary Principality, with Christian Government and national militia. VII. Prince of Bulgaria to be elected by population and confirmed by Porte with consent of Powers. Introduction of new *régime* confided for two years to Russian Commissary. VIII. Turkish troops to leave Bulgaria; fortresses to be razed; 50,000 Russian troops to occupy country for about two years at Bulgarian expense. XII. All Danube fortresses to be razed. No fortified places or vessels of war to be permitted on Roumanian, Servian, and Bulgarian parts of that river. XIII. Porte to restore navigation of Sulina Channel and indemnify sufferers by the war and interruption of Danube navigation. XIV. Reforms, according to proposals of First Sitting of Constantinople Conference, to be introduced into Bosnia and Herzegovina, with modifications to be agreed upon between Porte, Russia, and Austria. XV. Porte will carry out Regulation of 1868 in Crete, and introduce similar one in Epirus, Thessaly, and other parts of European Turkey. XVII. Full amnesty by Porte. XIX. War indemnity: 900,000,000 roubles for war expenses; 400,000,000 roubles injury to commerce; 100,000,000 roubles invasion of Caucasus, and 10,000,000 roubles indemnity to Russian subjects in Turkey. Greater part of Dobrudscha, Ardahan, Kars, Batoum, Bayazid, and territory to Saganlik will be accepted by Emperor as equivalent to 1,100,000,000; the remainder, except the 10,000,000 to Russian subjects in Turkey, to be arranged by understanding between Russian and Turkish Governments. XXIV. Bosphorus and Dardanelles will be open in time of peace to all merchant-vessels coming from or bound for Russian ports. XXV. Russian evacuation of Turkey in Europe, excepting Bulgaria, to take place within three months after conclusion of definitive peace between Russia and Turkey. Evacuation of Asiatic Turkey within six months. XXIX. Both Parties to be formally bound by present act from moment of ratification.

No. 491.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have attentively considered the communication which Count Schouvaloff was authorized by Prince Gortchakow to make to me on the 19th instant, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 230 of yesterday's date.

Her Majesty's Government cannot recede from the position already clearly defined by them, that they must distinctly understand, before they can enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the other Powers and what do not.

Her Majesty's Government are unable to accept the view now put forward by Prince Gortchakow, that the freedom of opinion and action in Congress of Russia, more than of any other Power, would be restricted by this preliminary understanding.

I have therefore inquired of Count Schouvaloff, by desire of Her Majesty's Government, whether the Government of Russia are willing that the communication of the Treaty *en entier* to the various Powers shall be treated as a placing of the Treaty before the Congress, in order that the whole Treaty, in its relation to existing Treaties, may be examined and considered by the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 492.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 371.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 301 of the 4th instant, forwarding copies of despatches from Mr. Consul Reade respecting the distress and anarchy prevailing at Schumla and in the neighbourhood, the massacre at Djuma, and the kidnapping of Christian girls by Circassians, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the remonstrances which you propose to address to the Porte respecting the attitude of the Turkish authorities at the places in question.

I have further to request that you will convey to Mr. Reade my approval of his proceedings as reported in these despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 493.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 372.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 310, Confidential, of the 5th instant, giving an account of an interview which you had with Fahri Bey, Turkish Ambassador to the Shah of Persia, previous to his departure for his post, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the advice which you tendered to his Excellency upon the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 494.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 374.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received from Mr. Consul Watkins a copy of a despatch which he addressed to your Excellency on the 5th March relative to the alarm felt at Larnaca at the impending arrival of 3,000 refugees from Constantinople, and inclosing copy of a petition addressed by the inhabitants of the town to the Foreign Representatives on this subject, and I have to request your Excellency to express to the Porte the hope of Her Majesty's Government that due precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of disease or the disturbance of tranquillity in consequence of the introduction of so large a number of refugees into Cyprus.

Your Excellency will report to me whether any and what measures are taken for that purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 495.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 375.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 303 of the 4th instant, giving an account of a conversation which you had on the 3rd instant with a deputation of Mussulman landholders of the district of Philippopoli, who came to present a petition to your Excellency, requesting Her Majesty's Government to advocate the claims of the Mussulman population in the approaching Congress; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you

held on the occasion in question, and that they will not fail to use their influence when the opportunity offers to obtain the just and equal treatment of Mussulmans.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 496.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 383.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me, on the 20th instant, the inclosed copy of a telegram from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs,* stating that thirty-five convicts have recently been released from the prisons at Larissa, with a view of sending them into Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 497.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.†

(No. 384.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Russian Ambassador at this Court,‡ in answer to his communication of March 7 (copy of which was forwarded to you in my despatch No. 370 of the 20th instant), having reference to the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government will take part in the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 498.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 48.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatch No. 143, Confidential, of the 5th instant, on the subject of M. Tricoupi's proposed mission to London; and, in reply, I have to state to you that I approve your proceedings in the matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 499.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(No. 4. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 15, Political, of 11th March, reporting the defeat of the Greek insurgents at Santi Quaranta, and I have to express to you my approval of the steps taken by you on this occasion with a view to effect the removal of the women and children.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* No. 468. † Also to Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Vienna. ‡ No. 502.

No. 500.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(No. 5. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 16, Political, of the 16th March, relative to a Consular meeting which took place at Corfu, in order to deliberate on the threatened attack on the Turkish Consul-General; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings on this occasion, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 501.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

(No. 6. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 18, Political, of the 14th instant, in which you report the circumstances of a visit which you paid to the commander of the Turkish ironclad stationed off Butrinto and to Santi Quaranta; and I have to convey to you my approval of your proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 502.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Watkins.

(No. 1. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 6th instant, on the subject of the alarm felt at Larnaca at the impending arrival of 3,000 refugees from Constantinople, I have to state to you that I have requested Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to express to the Porte the hope of Her Majesty's Government that due precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of disease or the disturbance of tranquillity in consequence of the introduction of so large a number of refugees into Cyprus.

I have further requested Mr. Layard to report to me whether any and what measures are taken with this object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 503.

The Earl of Derby to Count Schouvaloff.

Dear Count Schouvaloff, *Foreign Office, March* 21, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government have attentively considered the communication which you were authorized by Prince Gortchakow to make to me on the 19th instant.

Her Majesty's Government cannot recede from the position already clearly defined by them, that they must distinctly understand, before they can enter into Congress, that every Article in the Treaty between Russia and Turkey will be placed before the Congress, not necessarily for acceptance, but in order that it may be considered what Articles require acceptance or concurrence by the other Powers, and what do not.

Her Majesty's Government are unable to accept the view now put forward by Prince Gortchakow, that the freedom of opinion and action in Congress of Russia, more than of any other Power, would be restricted by this preliminary understanding.

Her Majesty's Government therefore desire to ask whether the Government of Russia are willing that the communication of the Treaty *en entier* to the various

Powers shall be treated as a placing of the Treaty before the Congress, in order that the whole Treaty, in its relation to existing Treaties, may be examined and considered by the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 504.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I this day forwarded a telegraphic despatch to the following effect to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—"I have to-day received a despatch as follows from Sir Charles Sebright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu:—'The insurrection in Turkish territory opposite suppressed. Insurgent villages devastated. Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" stood across this morning and communicated with the Turkish naval commander, who declared the cost blockaded, and refused permission to embark women and children without an authority from me. Please advise.'

"I have also the honour to report that M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, called upon me to-day, and asked me, unofficially, if Her Majesty's ship 'Rapid' might bring away from Santi Quaranta about fifty insurgents, some of whom, he said, were reported to be wounded. I declined to interfere directly, but said that as these events were taking place in Turkey I would refer the matter to your Excellency."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 505.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 10, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 151 of yesterday, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni called upon me yesterday and read to me the substance of a telegram which he had received from Corfu, to the effect that a body of insurgents was at Santi Quaranta, in Epirus; that some of them had succeeded in escaping on board an Austrian merchant steamer, but that about fifty men, some of whom were said to be wounded, still remained there; that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" had approached the coast, but that the Commander had been informed by the Captain of a Turkish iron-clad lying off the fort that the "Rapid" could not embark any persons unless he was furnished with an order from a superior authority.

M. Delyanni, having finished reading the telegram, said that he had come, not as Minister for Foreign Affairs but as a person taking an interest in the Christian populations in Turkey, to ask me whether I could take some steps towards obtaining permission for the fifty insurgents in question to be embarked on board the "Rapid" and conveyed to Corfu.

I replied that I had learnt from Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu that Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" had lately brought away some women and children who were wandering on the Albanian coast in a destitute condition, but for one of Her Majesty's ships to take on board a number of armed men who had risen in insurrection against the Turkish Government appeared to me to be quite a different matter, and one which might compromise the neutrality of Her Majesty's Government, and present them in the aspect of aiders and abettors of the insurrection; that I must, therefore, decline to take any steps in the sense he had indicated; but, I said, as these events were passing in Turkey, I would refer his request to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who could, if he thought fit, communicate with the Porte, and confer also with the Commander-in-chief of Her Majesty's naval forces in the Mediterranean.

Immediately after M. Delyanni's departure, I received a telegram from Sir Charles Sebright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, to the effect that the "Rapid" had stood across to the coast of Epirus; that her Commander had communicated with the Captain of a Turkish iron-clad, who had declared the coast to be in a state of blockade, and had refused permission to embark women and children.

I at once forwarded the text of Sir Charles Sebright's despatch to Mr. Layard, and I informed Sir Charles by telegraph that I had done so. I also communicated to Mr. Layard the substance of M. Delyanni's request to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 506.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I communicated yesterday morning to M. Delyanni, Minister for Foreign Affairs, the substance of your Lordship's telegram as to the Kingdom of Greece being represented at the coming Congress, and that his Excellency informed me to-day that he was charged by His Majesty the King to beg me to convey to Her Majesty's Government the thanks of His Majesty for this fresh mark of good will, and he at the same time requested me to convey the thanks of the Hellenic Government to that of Her Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 507.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 155.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 9th instant, informing me that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Hellenic Kingdom is fairly entitled to be represented in the coming Congress, I called upon the Minister for Foreign Affairs, M. Delyanni, and communicated its substance to his Excellency. M. Delyanni, who had not then received any information on the subject from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, begged me to convey his thanks to your Lordship.

I called again yesterday upon M. Delyanni, and he stated that he was charged by His Majesty the King, to request me to convey the thanks of His Majesty to the Government of Her Majesty the Queen for this mark of goodwill on their part towards the Kingdom of Greece, and his Excellency also begged me to convey the thanks of the President of the Council of Ministers, his own thanks, and those of his colleagues, to Her Majesty's Government, for the decision which they had taken with regard to Greece.

The opinion which Her Majesty's Government has expressed as to the Kingdom of Greece being represented at the coming Congress has caused the greatest satisfaction in Athens, and several persons have called upon me to express their feelings of gratitude ("reconnaissance") towards Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 508.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Athens, March 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on the 9th instant, when M. Delyanni called upon me to ask if I could take some steps to obtain the conveyance of some insurgents, fugitives on the Albanian coast, in Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" to Corfu, I observed to him that the Christians in Epirus were now suffering from the consequences of the insurrection which had been fomented by Greece. I have also the honour to report that on the 10th instant, when I communicated to M. Delyanni the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that the Greek Kingdom was fairly entitled to be represented at the coming Congress, I took advantage of the occasion to suggest to him that I thought, the Government having received this information, the moment

was favourable for them to use their influence with the various Committees in Greece to induce them to discontinue the enlistment of armed bands for the purpose of encouraging insurrection in Turkish territory.

His Excellency replied that he could not then give me answer upon this subject; to which I answered that I did not press for an answer, and that I was merely making a suggestion; whereupon he said that he would see whether he could place himself indirectly in communication with the principal members of the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 509.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have sent the following, which reached me to-day from Sir Charles Sebright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"The accounts received from the opposite coast are distressing. The Bashi-Bazouks are plundering and murdering. Seventeen villages have been devastated. The Turkish Commander is ready to answer for the conduct of the regular troops, but is unable to restrain the brutality of the irregulars. Please communicate with Mr. Layard."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 510.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I called upon M. Delyanni this morning, and informed him that Her Majesty's Government had learnt that a Turkish squadron had received orders to proceed to Greek waters. His Excellency stated that he had received information of a similar nature from M. Condouriotti, Greek Minister at Constantinople.

I then strongly recommended that the Greek Government should take steps to prevent the departure of more irregular bands, and I told M. Delyanni that I had heard from Her Majesty's Consul at Syra that a good number of volunteers are getting ready there for Thessaly, and that about 120 had left the day before yesterday for Athens, under the leadership of a certain M. Petrizis, an ex-Deputy of Syra; and I also called his attention to a statement in the "Stoa" newspaper, of to-day's date, that a Committee of three gentlemen had been formed for the purpose of collecting funds in Athens for promoting the insurrection.

I also informed M. Delyanni that the language I had employed to him last month, as to the irregular bands, had been approved by Her Majesty's Government, and that I therefore considered it my duty to continue to urge the Government to cause the cessation of proceedings which would bring discredit upon Greece and perhaps involve her in difficulties with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 511.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 161.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 15, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I informed Sir Charles Sebright, Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu, on the 12th instant, by telegraph, that your Lordship had instructed

Mr. Layard, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, to ask the Porte to permit the commander of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" to remove the destitute women and children on the coast opposite the island of Corfu.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 512.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 22.)

(No. 331.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 11, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Dussi, describing the conduct of the Russians and Christians towards the Mahommedans, and the great destruction by them of Turkish property in the district of Rodosto. I receive similar accounts, I regret to say, from Captain Fife, as regards the neighbourhood of Gallipoli; and I am afraid that the inoffensive Mussulman population are being treated in the same manner in all parts of the country occupied by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 512.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le* 8 *Mars*, 1878.

J'AI l'avantage de former la présente pour vous donner quelques renseignements sur les mouvements de troupes qui ont eu lieu depuis mon dernier rapport.

Ici on a concentré quelques régiments d'infanterie. Nous avons aussi eu 500 cavaliers. Entre Rodosto, Enedjik, et Mulgara il y a 12,000 hommes d'infanterie. Demain il arrive 3,000 hommes de cavalerie. On prépare aujourd'hui leurs logements.

Les troupes cantonnées à Heraclée se sont portées en avant. Il ne reste en cette ville que vingt-cinq hommes et un officier.

De Silivrie la cavalerie s'est avancée sur Constantinople.

On m'informe qu'à Tchorlou il y a un grand passage de troupes qui se portent sur la capitale.

Du côté de Gallipoli, à Peristasi et Miriollo, une personne qui vient d'arrivor me dit qu'il y a 5,000 hommes—infanterie et cavalerie—avec quarante canons. Elle me dit aussi qu'à Evres Kadikeui on a concentré 20,000 hommes.

Dans l'intérieur il y a anarchie complète.

On m'écrit de Malgara que le 24 écoulé, résidants dans la ville et les environs s'emparèrent du Conak, désarmèrent les agnides qu'ils tinrent une heure en prison, après quoi ils les licenciérent. Deux heures après arrivèrent les Russes. Les Chrétiens, soit les Grecs, se réunirent en conseil et il fut décidé de mettre en sur toutes les maisons Turques pendant vingt-quatre heures, ce qui fut fait. Tous les villages des environs, excepté deux, ont eu le même sort.

Des détachements de la cavalerie, qui se trouve à Evres Kadikeui, descendant jusqu'à Malgara et rançonnent journellement tous les villages en bœuf, foin, et autre.

A Silivrie, tout le quartier Turc a été brûlé par les Russes. Il ne reste que quelques maisons debout.

Ici, hier, par ordre des autorités, les soldats démolissaient les tanneries et enlevaient le plus petit morceau de bois.

Dans nos environs les Chrétiens se jettent sur les villages Turcs qu'ils pillent et brûlent.

Ils ne respectent même pas les biens des sujets étrangers, qui ne peuvent se faire rendre justice, les Consuls n'étant pas reconnus par les autorités.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 513.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 333.)

Constantinople, March 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Salonica, Larnaca, Prevesa, and Sulina, giving an account of affairs in their respective districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 513.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard, March 2, 1878.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 327.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 513.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard, March 4, 1878.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 327.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 513.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard, March 5, 1878.

[See Inclosure 1 in No. 409.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 513.

Petition addressed to Consul Watkins.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 409.]

Inclosure 5 in No. 513.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Prevesa, March 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that an engagement took place on the 25th instant, at Wadovitzi, between the insurgents and the Imperial Ottoman troops, resulting in favour of the former.

The Turks numbered above 1,200 men with two guns, and the insurgents 700. The battle lasted from 8 o'clock A.M. to 6 o'clock P.M., when the Turks were obliged to retire, leaving the villages of Kaplikiola and Kohoraphtia in the possession of the insurgents.

The Turkish loss was 56 dead, including 1 Bimbashi, 2 Yuzbashis, and 1 Moutazim; and 150 wounded.

The insurgents lost 3 dead and 13 wounded.

The above information has been obtained from a person who witnessed the fight.

The insurrection in Chimara has broken out.

According to advices which reached us in the beginning of the week, a body of insurgents had crossed over to Kumlia from Corfu, took possession of the port of Santi Quaranta, and then left for Delvino; we are also told that a great many Albanian

Turks have joined the insurgents, and should this be the case, the Imperial Government will find the task of quelling this rebellion somewhat difficult to accomplish, for with the exception of the two battalions sent hither from Constantinople, all the other troops in Epirus are natives of this province, and, therefore, I should not be at all astonished to hear that they refuse to fight against their own relatives; besides, no pay, bad clothing, and bad food, are enough reasons to cause discontent among them.

Last week I had the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the two battalions that reached this from Constantinople were ordered to proceed at once to Arta, which they did.

But three of four companies of Redifs from our garrison having been sent to Chimara, one of the two above-mentioned battalions has been ordered back to Prevesa, and about 400 men have already arrived.

The Turkish troops, I am told, have been ordered to evacuate all the block-houses along the Greek frontier, and it appears that the Greek troops have received similar instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 513.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Sulina, February 14, 1878.

I HAVE now the honour to inform your Excellency that, on the 11th instant, all the Turkish ships-of-war stationed at this port (having previously embarked all their material of war, and having also taken on board the military and civil authorities) abandoned the place, and on the 18th instant, the Russian Brigadier-General Salutzky, with 500 infantry and 30 Cossacks, crossed over the river, and quietly took possession of the town. I now inclose a copy of the letter addressed by the Russian General to the Turkish Admiral on the 3rd instant, and his reply to the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) OCTAVUS STOKES.

P.S.—The Russians here fully prepared to attack Sulina a second time, and, had the signing of the Armistice been delayed for half-an-hour, would have done so with a force of 5,000 men and heavy guns; and on this occasion we could not have made our escape, as we were surrounded on all sides.

O. S.

Inclosure 7 in No. 513.

General Salatzky to the Turkish Admiral at Sulina.

Votre Excellence,

Le $\frac{31 \text{ Janvier}}{12 \text{ Février}}$ 1878.

JE viens de recevoir l'ordre de faire savoir à votre Excellence que l'Armistice entre l'armée Impériale Russe et l'armée Turque ayant été conclu et signé le 19 Janvier, les hostilités doivent cesser immédiatement.

D'après les conditions, le blocus des ports Russes par la flotte Turque est levé, le commerce devient libre, le port et la ville de Soulina sera évacuée; ainsi que Roustchuk, Silistria, et Widdin.

De notre côté on rendra le Danube propre à la navigation, en otant les torpilles.

Les troupes Russes occuperont les bords de la Mer Noire depuis la frontière Russe jusqu'à Baltchik inclusivement, et ensuite depuis Mesevrie jusqu'à Derkos exclusivement, mais les troupes Impériales Russes n'occuperont que les ports de Bourgas et de Midia.

Le mouvement sur les chemins de fer de la Turquie est libre pour le commerce, et les ports sont ouverts pour toutes les espèces de marchandises, à l'exception des munitions de [guerre?]. Les deux Gouvernements prendront des dispositions pour que la communication télégraphique entre les villes de Constantinople et Odessa soient ouverte proclainement. En vous annonçant la nouvelle, j'ai l'honneur de prier à votre

Excellence de me faire connaître vos intentions et dispositions quant à la ville de Soulina.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. SALATZKY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 513.

The Turkish Admiral at Sulina to General Salatzky.

M. le Général,

EN vous confirmant ma lettre responsive à la vôtre en date d'hier par rapport aux clauses de l'Armistice conclue et signée entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Impérial de la Russie, j'ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance qu'à l'instant même je viens de recevoir des instructions de mon Gouvernement pour l'évacuation de Soulina et ses terrains, par la flotte et les établissements de guerre; instructions auxquelles je me conformerais immédiatement. En vous faisant part de ce qui précède, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) L'Amiral Commandant la Flotte Ottomane de la Mer Noire.

No. 514.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 22.*)

(No. 336.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Sankey, which, I am grieved to say, fully confirms the deplorable accounts that reach me from other quarters of the conduct of the Russians in the Turkish territories occupied by them.

I also inclose an account given by an Englishman who has been staying in Silivria during the Russian occupation of that town, in which the barbarous treatment of Turkish property and buildings is described.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 514.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Kustendji, February 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have received no official communication since the Russian occupation; that I have written several, although very doubtful of their having reached destination.

This country has been peaceably occupied by the Russians since shortly after crossing the Danube, but to a person unacquainted with the circumstances, it would appear a country ravaged by fire and sword.

It was left by the Turks covered by ripening crops, well-built villages standing, and only cattle driven off. Now it presents a scene of desolation; complete and wanton destruction of villages, utter disregard of private property; private houses forcibly occupied, and, on departure of occupants, doors, windows, and floors carried off in military carts for fuel; Protestant cemetery used by the camp as a common sewer; marble headstones carried off by soldiers, wanton destruction, carelessness, and filth, seem the order of the day.

A private house in good repair, after being occupied by a General officer for a few weeks, is made unfit for decent habitation.

All complaints made by myself or others are met by the answer, "droit de guerre," and great exception was taken to my qualifying such conduct as "droit de brigands."

Bazardjik was occupied towards the latter end of January; the place was uninjured by the Turks, but the Russians began immediately to pull the houses down, careless whether inhabited or not, for the sake of the beams and woodwork, whereas,

twenty minutes' drive to the forest would have provided them with firewood for the trouble of cutting.

I have neither heard of nor seen any acts of personal cruelty by the Russians, but as this wholesale destruction seems to be encouraged by the officers, it would seem as if an intention existed to impoverish the country, and prevent its recovering for many years.

If by some miracle a famine does not ensue, I very much fear that the warm weather will have the effect of letting loose an immense quantity of poisonous gases caused by the incredibly filthy habits of the Russians, and thus cause an epidemic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SANKEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 514.

Memorandum from Silivria.

Thursday, 7th March, 1878.—On this day the Russians numbered about 7,000 infantry, and 3,000 cavalry (all of which were quartered in the town), with 25 field-pieces.

On *Friday, 8th March*, arrived a battalion of infantry from Tchorlou (said to be 8 hours' march), with a train of 18 field-pieces, drawn by 6 horses each, in good condition. Also 100 native transport arabas, each having waterproof covering, and a spare wheel, and drawn by 3 native horses, and 20 Russian transport waggons, drawn also by 3 horses. All these camped on the open, outside the town, and are said to be *en route* for Chekmedji.

The men quartered in Silivria appear to belong to regiments Nos. 1, 7, 9, 14, 34, and 40.

Some of the troops are well clothed, others badly, some have good boots, other have "charuse," raw hide coverings for their feet. From the stores arriving, were served out this day to many of the troops, stockings and under flannels.

Saturday, 9th March.—Rainy day. No movement of troops. Informant left Silivria on Sunday without noticing any movement. It was, however, said that 9,000 troops would arrive from Adrianople to-day, Monday.

It is expected that the Russians will occupy the town for three months.

On the cannons and ammunition waggons arriving from Tchorlou, a certain quantity of hay is brought. The native straw is abundant in the neighbourhood of Silivria, but there is a scarcity of barley, and very little is being served out except, perhaps, to the artillery horses.

Firewood is procured by demolishing buildings. All the houses, buildings, and shops belonging to Christians are marked with the sign of the cross, which mark pretty surely insures protection.

The quarter of the town exclusively inhabited by Turks (Turka Mahalla) before the Russian occupation, and then comprising probably over 100 houses, is now entirely demolished, except about 30 dwellings which are only partially destroyed. There are many Turkish houses in the Christian quarters; these have suffered comparatively little.

Silivria contains three mosques: one is large, and may be called a fine building. The other two are of the ordinary village class, built of rough stone with wooden minarets. All these have been subject to much wanton injury since the Russian occupation.

In the large mosque some of the marble flooring has been broken. All marble tables or ornaments, slabs or inscriptions fixed on the walls, have been pulled out and broken or defaced.

There was also an elevated pulpit; from this the "Imam" preached to the people assembled. It was built of marble, richly worked; that has also been thrown down and broken to pieces. There were also marble stalls which it is said that the rich Turks used at times of prayer.

These were also broken. The screens that were before that part of the mosque appropriated to women have been destroyed. All the interior doors are broken, as also every pane of glass in the windows. A large strong iron door which closes the main entrance alone remains uninjured. It should also be noted that a large chandellier was torn down and broken.

All over the interior of the buildings, and upon the balcony of the minaret, the

place from which the priest calls the faithful to prayer, is defiled with human excrement.

The two small mosques have been subject to the same treatment as the large mosque, and, in addition, the wooden minaret of one of them has been pulled down, it is said by twenty or thirty Russian soldiers attaching a cord thereto.

Many of the marble worked headstones in the Turkish cemetery have in like manner been wantonly broken.

The Greek Church and other places of worship remain uninjured.

The Russians impose a duty of 8 per cent. on the value of all goods brought to the town, except that tobacco and cigars pay 50 per cent., besides which drinking shops pay a tax of from 1 to 9 fr. per month.

It should have been before stated that on Friday, the 8th, a battalion of infantry left Silivria for Rodosto without guns or baggage train.

Silivria is pretty much an open roadstead, exposed to the south wind.

E. W.

Monday, March 11, 1878.

No. 515.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 337.) *Constantinople, March* 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report addressed by an English surgeon, Dr. Lyle Heath, to Mr. Barrington Kennett, the Special Commissioner of the Stafford House Committee, giving a deplorable account of the state of affairs at Philippopolis since its occupation by the Russians. As I have not received any despatch from Mr. Calvert since the town has been in the possession of the Russians I presume that means have been found to stop them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No 515.

Dr. Heath's Report to V. Barrington Kennett, Esq., Special Commissioner of the Stafford House Committee, dated Constantinople, March 11, 1878.

ON the retreat of Suleiman Pasha, on January 15, from Philippopolis, I was attached by him to the Stafford House Hospital to attend to those Turkish sick and wounded who would not be transported in time to prevent capture.

On the evening of the 15th of January Philippopolis was virtually in the hands of the Russians, and on the following day, about noon, General Gourko, with his staff, entered the town. He was met in the street by the Bulgarian Metropolitan, with several priests and a number of boys in long white clothing, bearing lighted candles, swinging incense and singing Russian hymns. General Gourko accompanied the procession to the church, and, having attended service, proceeded at once to his quarters. This Christian demeanour, however, did not extend itself to the officers and soldiers, who filled the town in a short time, and quartered themselves wherever they wished, greatly to the annoyance and terror of many of the inhabitants. Several of these entreated Mr. Calvert, Her Majesty's Acting Vice-Consul, to protest to the Governor against the manner in which they were hourly insulted and their property injured, but Mr. Calvert was courteously informed that his official position could not be recognized by the Russian authorities, and I believe also the Austrian and Greek Consuls received similar intimations. Since the arrival of the Russians, up to the present, there has been a very free circulation of money in the town, more particularly in the restaurants, there was a great deal of rioting, and it was only a fortnight before I left that the majority of the shops were opened, owing to the number of robberies that took place whenever an attempt was made to re-open a store of any description. The principal Turkish inhabitants of Philippopolis had fled before the Russians entered, but first secured their houses as well as they could from being broken into, thinking probably that their property would be respected as soon as order was restored. The Russian Governor, however, caused large placards to be placed in the chief corners of the town calling on all Turks who had property in Philippopolis to claim it within ten days, or otherwise it would be confiscated, and by this means they became possessed of all the property appertaining to the Turks who had fled.

The suffering of those who were unable to flee must have been very acute. I went

with Mr. Calvert to a place where we were told some Turkish women and children were lying in a state of starvation. When we arrived at the place the sight was perfectly revolting. In one room there was a body of a woman who must have been dead for at least two days, and three other women in an almost dying condition, together with five children. One of these children, a girl about ten or eleven years old, was violated, a fact which I can certify from medical examination, and I was credibly informed that this was done by six Bulgarians in succession; this girl subsequently died. In another room there was a poor woman lying on a lot of filthy rags without covering, and her only pillow was the body of her dead child which she had been suckling, but was, of course, unable to continue giving it milk. This woman was suffering from the effects of a bullet wound in the back, but she was too weak to give any information as to how she came to be wounded.

I rode to a village some five or six miles outside Philibé, with Mr. Calvert, to see the bodies of some Turkish soldiers, who were reported to me as having been butchered by Bulgarians. We saw two inside the town, and several on the roadside about two miles outside the town; amongst them was the body of a Turkish woman, indecently exposed and with one of her hands cut off.

On another occasion Mr. Calvert went with a Russian surgeon to visit the scenes of these atrocities, and saw several bodies of Turkish soldiers. On coming home he saw an unfortunate Turkish soldier actually in a pool of blood; he had just been gashed on the head; he was able to speak, and implored Mr. Calvert to have him taken into Philippopolis. Mr. Calvert offered to pay three Bulgarians, who were passing, to take him to the hospital, but they refused, and coolly asked permission from the Russian surgeon to be allowed to kill him. The night was intensely cold, and they had taken away all his clothes except his shirt.

Mr. Calvert is aware of several instances of the Russian officers sending Bulgarians to bring by means of bribes, or, if necessary, force, Turkish women to their apartments. On one occasion the dragoman of the British Vice-Consulate met a Turkish woman crying piteously in the street, and on asking her what was the matter, she replied that two Russian soldiers had taken away her daughter, and she could discover no traces of her.

At the railway-station there were, on or about the 18th February, 100 Turkish soldiers, sick and wounded, who had not had anything to eat for three days, and one of the pharmaciens attached to the Stafford House hospital, in endeavouring to take the wounded away, was fired at by a Russian, although he was wearing his brassard. Fortunately, however, he was not touched. The worst cases were subsequently taken to the Stafford House Hospital, where they received every attention. The Governor gave orders to Dr. Minassian (the head surgeon of the Stafford House Hospital in Philippopolis) to have all the wounded in his hospital removed at once to some other building, as the Bulgarian Bishop had applied to him for the house, which he said he wished to get repaired, as it belonged to him; but on Mr. Calvert proving to the Governor that the Bishop's statement was perfectly false, the removal of the patients did not take place.

The Russian troops treated the Turkish prisoners with great cruelty; 300 of these prisoners, destined for Bucharest, were marched from the station at the point of the bayonet, and more than one-half of them could scarcely walk from the effects of frost-bite.

An order was issued from the Governor that all houses should be decorated with flags on the 6th March, and the occupants of any house not complying with the order was to be subjected to a penalty of 15 Turkish pounds. On that day Philippopolis wore quite a fairy appearance, but it was a very curious coincidence that the largest and most prominent flag was the Red Crescent with its distinguishing Stafford House badge, which waved over the door of that hospital. During all the riot and uproar this flag had never been molested. The Bulgarians have burned several of the Turkish houses in the town, and in the neighbouring villages large fires are seen every night, all of which come from Turkish houses.

Mr. Calvert, under the auspices of the Turkish Compassionate Fund, opened a hospital and home for Turkish refugees (women and children). There could not have been any institution more needed at the time, and I think it is only just to mention that the Russian Governor of the town gave a subscription of 20 Napoleons to it. When I left Philippopolis on the 7th instant there were 78 children in this hospital and 18 women.

I omitted to mention, when speaking of the Turkish troops, that I went to visit some who were in a temporary prison in the town, and found them in the most fearful

misery, squalor, and dirt imaginable, and lying in the yard were the dead bodies of thirteen of their comrades unburied for days.

(Signed) T. HEATH.

P.S.—You will no doubt find confirmation of the above facts in the various despatches which I am aware Mr. Calvert addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador during my stay at Philippopolis. I must not close this report without expressing my personal obligations to Mr. Calvert for his kind hospitality during a period of nearly two months, and informing you that he invariably used his utmost exertions and influence to forward the work of the Stafford House Committee.

T. H.

No. 516.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 343.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 13, 1878.

I HAD the honour of forwarding to your Lordship, by the last messenger, a copy of the Preliminaries of Peace, signed on the 3rd instant at San Stefano, by the Turkish and Russian Plenipotentiaries. Time would not permit me to accompany it with any observations. I would venture now to submit to your Lordship some considerations with respect to this important international act.

Her Majesty's Government will, no doubt, have seen with satisfaction that some of the demands injurious to British interests, put forward by the Russian Plenipotentiaries at the beginning of the negotiations, were subsequently abandoned. The regulations as to the passage of ships of war through the Dardanelles remain as they were established by the Treaty of Paris. The surrender of the Turkish iron-clads, as a part of the indemnity, is no longer required. No special guarantees, such as the Egyptian and Bulgarian Tributes, are assigned for the payment of the interest and sinking-fund on the sum of 40,000,000*l.* sterling, part of the indemnity exacted from the Porte. Salonica is not included in the new Principality. The firm language recently held by Her Majesty's Government, and their decisive action in sending a squadron into the Sea of Marmora, may have contributed to this result. On the other hand, it was wise and politic on the part of Russia not to insist upon terms which might have led to serious misunderstandings, at the present time, with England, if not with other Powers. The only Article of the Preliminaries of Peace which may be said to concern British interests exclusively, is that by which Turkey cedes to Russia the last of Armenia, including Batoum. But as public opinion in England appears to be indifferent to a territorial change which places in the hands of Russia the great commercial highways from the Black Sea to Northern Persia, and gives her virtual command over the Valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, it is needless to recur to the subject.

Russia has also made a concession to the public opinion and sentiment of Europe by desisting from the demands put forward by the Russian Plenipotentiaries at Adrianople for the expulsion of the Mussulmans from the Bulgarian Principality. Nevertheless, the conditions under which the new tributary State is to be constituted renders it more than probable that ere long the whole Mahommedan population will, by direct or indirect means, be driven out of it.

The most superficial examination of the Preliminaries of Peace must lead to the conviction that they are framed exclusively in the interests of the Slavs, to which are sacrificed those of the Greeks and of the other populations of Turkey in Europe. The object in view has been the aggrandisement of the Slav race, and the formation of a Slave State, which, endowed with Russian institutions, and placed under Russian supervision, is to be absolutely dependent upon Russia, if it does not speedily become virtually a Russian Province. The Slav communities now under the dominion of Austria, together with Bosnia and Servia, will probably be absorbed ultimately into this vast Slav nationality, and the Russian Empire may then include the whole of Eastern Europe.

The effect which the formation of such an overwhelming Slav military Empire may have upon the balance of power, its danger to the liberties of other States, and its results upon civilisation, are matters worthy of the deepest consideration, and to be dealt with in the wisest spirit of statesmanship. It may not be within my province to discuss them.

If I am rightly informed, the Russian Plenipotentiaries showed during the negotiations a desire to conciliate Austria as far as possible, and to meet some of the objections that she might put forward to the terms of peace. With this view the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro were not made conterminous, a narrow strip of territory having been left between them by which the communications between Bosnia and the capital may be maintained. The co-operation and consent of Austria are to be invited in future arrangements connected with Bosnia and Montenegro. On the other hand, I understand that very little consideration was shown for the interests of Greece by the Russian Delegates. They appear, on the contrary, to have been influenced by a feeling of hostility to her.

The most disastrous result of the war to Turkey is undoubtedly the withdrawal from the rule of the Sultan, and the conversion of a large portion of his European dominions into a tributary Principality, under the name of Bulgaria. I ventured to point out, in the despatches I addressed to your Lordship on the Bases of Peace,* some of the results that may be expected to ensue from the formation of this new semi-independent State. The dangers that I then apprehended are increased by the Preliminaries of Peace.

Bulgaria is now arbitrarily extended to the coast of the Ægean Sea. Russia has, it is true, consented to leave Salonica to the Sultan; but it can scarcely be believed that this fine port, with the small tract of adjacent territory, forming the natural outlet of the new State to the Mediterranean, will long continue to be separated from it. It will be absolutely necessary to Bulgaria, for political and commercial reasons, as well as for general Slav interests, that Salonica should not fall into the hands of the Greeks. And it cannot remain permanently in the possession of the Turks.

According to the Preliminaries of Peace, Bulgaria is to be occupied by a Russian force of 50,000 men for two years, and the government of the new Principality is to be practically confided for the same period to a Russian Commissioner. Its administration, and its political institutions, will be modelled upon those of Russia by Russian functionaries. The Bulgarian Prince is not to be, as appears to have been first intended, a Bulgarian and a subject of the Sultan, but a foreigner. Members of one of the reigning dynasties of the Great Powers are excluded from election. I understand that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries endeavoured to substitute, but unsuccessfully, for this condition that he should not be a member of any reigning family.

Constantinople, and the adjacent territory remaining to the Sultan, will be completely cut off by the new Principality from the western provinces of Turkey in Europe. It is true that military roads through Bulgaria, and a narrow slip of territory between Servia and Montenegro, are nominally given to Turkey. But these lines of communication would be inevitably cut off when most needed; for instance, in case of an insurrection in Bosnia, or of a war with Servia. Nor is there any guarantee that in the event of Turkish troops having once been allowed to pass, the roads would be open for their return. The postal and telegraphic communication, secured to Turkey by the same Article, would be equally at the mercy of the Bulgarians.

Her Majesty's Government may endeavour to obtain at the Congress some modification of the Preliminaries of Peace as regards Bulgaria, and some guarantees for its future just and liberal administration, and for the protection of British interests. I would, therefore, venture to call your Lordship's attention to the following points, particularly referring to this Principality, as Russia proposes to constitute it:—

1. The limits assigned to Bulgaria are altogether arbitrary. They are, for the most part, laid down with reference to political considerations alone, and, there is every reason to suspect, with a view to further the ulterior designs of Russia. The principles upon which these limits are to be determined, according to the VIth Article of the Preliminaries, are of the most elastic character. The nationality of the majority of the inhabitants is to be considered, as well as "topographical necessities and the practical interests of circulation for the local populations," by which, it may be presumed, is meant the means of intercommunication. It is scarcely necessary to observe that these vague conditions may lead to the most arbitrary arrangements.

By extending the Principality to the east to the coast of the Black Sea, including the ports of Kustendji, Varna, and Bourgas, and to the south to the Ægean, Bulgaria obtains a double seaboard, which, considering the relations likely to exist between the new State and Russia, must prove of the utmost advantage to that Power. This will be especially the case as regards the Ægean coast, where Russia will find a station in the Mediterranean, which will render the right of passage for her ships of war through the Dardanelles probably of less importance to her than it now is. As

* See my despatches Nos. 180 and 263.

I have before observed, it would appear impossible that Salonica can long remain in the isolated position assigned to it by the Preliminaries of Peace. It must, in the end, inevitably be annexed to Bulgaria unless the European Powers are resolved upon taking effective measures to prevent it. And recent experience has proved that little or no reliance can be placed upon any measures that Europe can devise for such a purpose. In the harbour of Salonica, Russia would find a first-class station for her navy.

This extension of Bulgaria to the Black Sea and the Ægean is not warranted by any valid ethnological considerations, nor by any previous political organization of the provinces and districts to be included in the Principality. The Christian inhabitants of most of the ports of the Black Sea, and of the country for some distance inland, are, there is reason to believe, chiefly Greeks, who, with the Mussulmans, form the great majority of the population. The same is said to be the case with regard to the coasts of the Ægean. Upon both these points I am endeavouring to obtain full and trustworthy evidence for the information of Her Majesty's Government. But it is not only on the coasts of the two seas that the Bulgarians are in the minority, and have no claim to be considered the rightful owners of the soil. In the interior also, and in some of the great towns, the Mussulmans and Greeks are in a considerable majority. Southern Macedonia may be considered Greek rather than Bulgarian, if it be no longer Turkish. In parts of it there appears to be a floating Bulgarian population, coming from other provinces, and employed by Mussulman and Greek landowners for agricultural purposes. The fact that these moving bands of labourers may, at a given time of the year, form a majority of the inhabitants of a district, or of a village, would scarcely give them a claim to its possession. The Russian and Bulgarian authorities and agents are accused, both by Turks and Greeks, of bringing, in many instances, a few Bulgarians to towns and villages in which there were previously none, giving them municipal offices, and then declaring the place to be Bulgarian, and consequently to be included within the new Principality. Upon these matters also, it is desirable that trustworthy information should be obtained, and I am doing my best to procure it.

I have seen and am promised a copy of a map privately printed, I am informed, by the Russian Government, in which Turkey in Europe is divided and coloured according to the Russian view as to their population. Although the greater part of Macedonia is assigned to Bulgarians, yet there are many districts, even in the interior of the country, which are marked as being inhabited exclusively by Mussulmans.

Leaving out of view the injustice of placing large and important Mussulman and Greek populations under the rule of the Bulgarians, I may be permitted to point out its impolicy. It is not probable that the Turks will ever attempt, with any prospect of success, to resume their old dominion in Roumelia. But the Greeks are not likely to renounce the hereditary claims that they are convinced they possess to Macedonia. The absorption of that ancient Greek province into the new Bulgaria has already excited the alarm and indignation of the whole Hellenic race. Protests will no doubt be shortly made against it to Her Majesty's Government and other Powers who are to send Representatives to the Congress. An agitation is commencing which will gather strength, and which may one day lead to serious consequences. The Greeks see, not only an act of injustice to Greece in handing over Macedonia to Bulgaria, but a design on the part of the Slavs, directed by Russia, to drive back the Hellenic race, and to deprive it of all political power and influence in what is now Turkey in Europe. In fact, it is a question of life and death for Greece, upon which hangs the great future for his race to which every Greek ardently looks.

All the centres of population in Roumelia, such as Sofia, Philippopolis, and Adrianople, and most, if not all, of the smaller towns, are inhabited by large, active, and intelligent Greek communities, in whose hands the commerce of the country is principally concentrated. They have hitherto enjoyed considerable political and social influence, and have even taken a large share in the civil administration of the country. It is not probable that they will consent to be deprived of both by the Bulgarians, and to be exposed to persecution on account of their church or their race. The Greek is far superior to the Bulgarian in every respect. In a struggle such as that which may be expected to ensue between the two races, the Greeks, if left alone, would probably soon get the upper hand. But Russia would no doubt again interfere to support and protect her brother Slavs, and the contest between Mussulmans and Christians would be replaced by hatred and war between Greeks and Slavs.

If these apprehensions be well founded, it is of the utmost importance that efforts should be made by England at the Congress to prevent the extension of the

Bulgarian principality, so as to include within it districts and important centres of population, which are inhabited either exclusively by Greeks or Mussulmans, or by a considerable majority of either, over the Bulgarians, or even when, in consequence of their wealth, their influence and their "status," the Greeks, or the Turks, are the predominant race.

The question of the result upon the balance of power, and, indirectly, upon British interests, by the establishment of a Slav State, which may be dependent upon Russia, if not absolutely annexed to her, and which must, in all probability, end by possessing Constantinople and the Straits, is one affecting the general policy of England, which it may not be within my province to discuss. The way in which the new Principality is to be organized under the auspices and control of Russia, its occupation for two years by Russian troops, and its virtual administration for the same period by a Russian Commissioner, are well calculated to make Bulgaria a mere Russian province. It is difficult to believe that at the end of two years the Bulgarians will, of themselves, be able to govern and administer their country in a manner to satisfy Europe. It will probably be found necessary to retain Russians or Bulgarians brought up in Russia in most public employments of importance. This will tend still further to Russianize the Principality, and to destroy those free, national, democratic institutions which the Bulgarians possessed under the Ottoman rule, and the full enjoyment of which might have been guaranteed to them through the action of Europe without the necessity of a cruel war.

3. The Bulgarians were known to be a fanatical race. Recent events have proved them to be in the highest degree a cruel and a persecuting one. The shocking treatment received by the inoffensive Mussulman population at their hands, which no provocation could have justified, is more than sufficient to show what the Mahommedans who may have remained in the Principality, or may be induced to return to it, are to expect, unless the very strongest and most effective guarantees can be obtained for their protection. The Greeks will be exposed, there is reason to fear, to similar persecution. The Jews, who inhabit in large numbers parts of Macedonia, judging from what has already happened, will probably meet with the same fate as the Mahommedans. Protestant missionaries—chiefly from the United States—have laboured for the education and enlightenment of the Bulgarians. It is to be apprehended that a stop will be put to their work, and that the Protestant movement, which was becoming one of some importance, will be summarily arrested. The same intolerance may be shown with regard to the Catholics. Under the Turkish rule there was general religious toleration, and the Turkish authorities were frequently able to prevent rival Christian sects and creeds from persecuting each other. England would be acting up to the policy she formerly pursued, not only in the Ottoman Empire, but in other lands, if she were to use her utmost efforts at the Congress to ensure for the populations of the new Principality, whatever may be their faith, complete religious freedom.

4. The commercial relations of Turkey with England and other countries, founded upon Treaties, are singularly liberal, and have proved highly advantageous to British trade. It would be of great importance to our commerce that those Treaties should be maintained in Bulgaria, and that they should not be modified in a direction unfavourable to freedom of trade. It may be the intention of Russia to introduce ultimately into Bulgaria her own restrictive commercial system, and this danger should be guarded against.

5. Although the Capitulations have, no doubt, been a source of great injury to Turkey, they have been of no inconsiderable advantage to the subjects of other nations. It is not improbable that the new Principality, following the example set to it by Servia and Roumania, will soon seek to free itself from them. It will be a matter for consideration at the Congress, whether the privileges which they secure to foreigners residing in the Ottoman Empire should be altogether abandoned, or whether they should not be maintained at least until the Bulgarian Government has furnished proofs of its power and will to protect foreigners and to respect their rights.

It is to be remarked that in the Preliminaries of Peace no allusion seems to be made either to the Capitulations or to the commercial relations of the Principality.

6. The payment of the interest and sinking fund on the Turkish foreign loans is to a great extent guaranteed by the revenues of the provinces to be formed into the new tributary State. It would be but just to the English and other Turkish bondholders, that their interests should be supported in the Congress, and that provision should be made out of the revenues of the Principality for a proportionate annual

payment to the foreign creditors of Turkey. No reference, it will be remarked, is made in the Preliminaries of Peace to this subject.

I have, I believe, thus touched upon the principal points connected with Bulgaria which might be dealt with by Her Majesty's Government at the Congress as closely affecting British interests and British policy. I refrain from discussing wider and more general questions: whether a Bulgaria should be called into existence and become a semi-independent Principality under a European Prince; or whether it should be formed into an autonomous province with ample guarantees for good and just government, thus removing the serious danger to Europe that the calling into existence of a new Slav Power may occasion; whether the destruction of all the Turkish fortresses on the Danube and on the Quadrilateral, and the withdrawal of all Turkish troops from the new tributary State, are measures likely to tend to peace, and to prevent the East of Europe from being finally overrun by Russia; and whether it is desirable to put an end altogether to the Ottoman Empire in Europe. These are matters for the consideration of united Europe, as they affect not the interests of one Power, but the interests of all. With them are connected the recognition of the independence of Servia, Montenegro, and Roumania, and the extension of their respective territories—subjects upon which I have already ventured to express my opinions to your Lordship, and to which I will not recur except to suggest that advantage might be taken of the Congress to secure for the inhabitants of the ceded districts the same religious toleration that they enjoyed under Turkish rule, and that, if possible, the Jews and others, who are now the victims of persecution in Roumania and Servia, should be treated more in conformity with the practice of civilized nations.

According to the Preliminaries of Peace, the Mussulmans may continue to reside in the Bulgarian Principality and in the districts ceded to Servia and Montenegro. Should those who have emigrated not return, they may retain their lands and other immovable property upon certain conditions which are to be fulfilled within two years, upon pain of confiscation. Although the demand first put forward by Count Ignatiew for the expulsion of the Mahommedan population was withdrawn, yet there can be little doubt that the original design of Russia to remove the Mussulmans altogether from Bulgaria will be carried out by indirect, if not by violent, means. Judging from what took place in Servia after she was constituted a semi-independent State, no arrangement made with Mussulmans will be respected. Means will be found to drive them, in the course of time, from their homes, and to compel them to sacrifice the lands and property that may have remained to them.

Although the Russian authorities now pretend that the Mussulman fugitives may return to their homes, they refuse to guarantee them protection against the Bulgarians, except in some of the principal towns. Without such protection the Mussulmans would not venture to go back, and I am informed that the Porte would not permit them to do so. It is difficult to say how many of them will have perished from Bulgarian massacres, from exposure during their flight before the invading Russian armies, and from disease, before order and tranquillity are restored. I have heard the number placed even as high as 200,000! In any case the Mussulman population will be greatly reduced.

By the XVth Article of the Preliminaries, it is agreed that a "Règlement Organique," similar to that conceded to Crete by the Porte in 1868, shall be applied to Thessaly and Epirus, "and other portions of European Turkey for which a special organization is not provided by the present act." This may be an important provision, and may lead to unforeseen consequences. It is exceedingly vague in its terms.

After Thessaly, Epirus, Bosnia, and Herzegovina have been formed into "autonomous," or self-governing provinces, little will remain to be dealt with in Turkey in Europe, except Northern Albania, the small district of Salonica, including Mount Athos, for which some special arrangement may be intended, and Constantinople with its adjacent territory in Thrace. Are these also to receive a special organization, and is it thus intended to put an end practically to Midhat Pasha's Constitution and the Turkish Parliament, the object of Russian hatred, and the only hope of radical improvement for Turkey?

The concession of "autonomy" to the European provinces of Turkey must inevitably produce grave results in other parts of the Sultan's dominions. Already intrigues are rife, and a good deal of agitation prevails in Asia Minor and Syria, with the object of obtaining similar privileges. The closing of the Turkish Parliament, brought about, it is alleged, by Russia, has sent back to their homes the deputies who have taken an active part in the proceedings of the Chamber, and have been the principal opponents of the Government. Their presence and influence in the provinces has tended to increase this movement in favour of "autonomy." It is stated that some large towns, such as Koniah and Aleppo, have threatened to refuse to receive for the future Governors sent by the Porte, and to insist upon keeping the administration entirely in their own hands. This state of things threatens to complete the general break-up of the Ottoman Empire, which has been commenced by the Preliminaries of Peace concluded with Russia, and at which she is thought by some to be aiming.

The XVIth Article of the Preliminaries would seem to indicate the intention of Russia to insist upon some special arrangement for Armenia in the direction also of autonomy, which may further add to the agitation in Asiatic Turkey, and may lead to consequences which it may be important for Her Majesty's Government to consider, especially with reference to the Province of Bagdad. The relations which, there is much reason to believe, Russia is now seeking to establish with Persia, may further the views of the latter Power with regard to that province, and disturbances in it; fresh disorders at Kerbelah, and at the other sacred shrines of the Shiahs, and consequent massacre of Persian subjects and pilgrims, may soon afford pretext for Persian interference. It behoves England, therefore, not to overlook the effect which the new political arrangements for the restriction and abolition of the rule and authority of the Sultan in European Turkey may have upon his Asiatic and African possessions. We must be prepared for the possibility, if not for the imminent probability, of the disruption of all the bonds which have united, up to the present time, more or less closely, the scattered portions of this vast empire.

The fact that no European guarantee with reference to Roumania, Servia, Montenegro, or Bulgaria is mentioned in the Preliminaries of Peace will no doubt have struck Her Majesty's Government. I have reason to believe that this omission has been purposely made. I have even been told that Count Ignatiew has explained it by stating that, were Roumania placed under a European guarantee, the access of Russia to Bulgaria might be debarred, and she might be prevented annexing Roumania if it became absolutely necessary for her to do so. Count Ignatiew added, I am further informed, that it would suit Austria that there should be no European guarantee for Servia, which might prevent her pursuing a policy towards that Principality conformable to her interests, and even from taking possession of it. As regards Bulgaria, Count Ignatiew is said to have observed that, as the creation of this new Principality was the exclusive work of Russia she had no intention that any other Power should interfere in it.

Your Lordship will likewise not have failed to observe that whilst the European Powers are to be consulted in fixing the tribute of Bulgaria and as to the Prince who is to be elected by universal suffrage under the control of Russian functionaries, they are apparently to have no voice whatever in the political and administrative organization of the new Principality, or the settlement of its relations with the Porte. These matters are to be confided entirely to the Bulgarians under the guidance of a Russian Commissioner.

It is also to be remarked that, according to the XVth Article, the "nouveau Règlement Organique" which is to be introduced into Thessaly, Epirus, and other provinces of Turkey in Europe, is to be submitted to the examination of the Porte, who will consult the Russian Government with regard to it before putting it into execution. Nothing is said as to consultation with the other European Powers.

The arrangements for the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Bulgaria, and from the other positions they now occupy in Turkey in Europe, are apparently of a somewhat vague and elastic character. It is declared in the VIth Article that the definite frontiers of the Bulgarian Principality are to be settled by a special Turco-Russian Commission before the evacuation of Roumelia (and the use of the word may be significant) by the Russian army. Are the Russian forces, therefore, to continue to retain the parts of Turkey in Europe they actually hold until the new boundaries are determined? If so, when the extent of those boundaries and the numerous interests of all classes that will be affected by them are considered, an indefinite time may be required to fix them. Until they are determined Russia might consequently claim to occupy not only Bulgaria, but the whole of Roumelia up to the gates of Constantinople. It is also provided in the VIIIth Article that the Russian troops shall not be withdrawn from Bulgaria until a national militia is formed sufficient to maintain order, security, and tranquillity, yet no time is fixed for the formation of such a militia; and it depends upon Russia alone to determine if, when constituted, it is fit for the purposes designated. The same uncertainty prevails as regards the withdrawal of the Russian army from Armenia, which, according to the XVIth Article,

is to depend upon the introduction by Turkey of certain ameliorations and reforms into that province.

The object of introducing the paragraph referring to Kotour in the XVIIIth Article is only to be explained by some such understanding between Russia and Persia as that to which I have referred in my despatch No. 296 of the 1st instant. It is provided that the Porte shall take into serious consideration the opinion expressed by the Commission of the Mediating Powers (England and Russia) with respect to the possession of this district. Sir Arnold Kemball, whom I have consulted, has informed me that no opinion on this subject has been expressed by the Commission of which he is a member, nor could one have been given or formed without reference to the whole question of the frontier and to the territorial concessions to be mutually made by Turkey and Persia; but it appears that the Commission, of which Sir Fenwick Williams and Colonel Tchirikoff were members, were favourable to the claims of Persia. It was unnecessary, therefore, to make any special reference to Kotour when the Porte engaged itself to carry out the definitive delimitation of the Turco-Persian frontier.

The version of the XXIInd Article of the Preliminaries of Peace, which has reached my French and Greek colleagues, appears to have caused them considerable anxiety. It is believed by them to give Russia that right of interference in the affairs of the Russo-Greek Church to the detriment of the other branches of the Greek Church, and of the Catholics the claim to which was one of the principal causes of the Crimean war. This article is considered an important step towards Slavising the Greek Church in Turkey. The first paragraph refers to Russian ecclesiastics, pilgrims, and monks. I understand that the Turkish Plenipotentiaries vainly endeavoured to substitute, "of Russian origin" for "Russian." It is believed that the object of Count Ignatiew in adhering to the original text was that means will probably be found to include in its definition a great part of the Bulgarian clergy, who would thus come under the special protection, as stated in the article, "of the Imperial (Russian) Embassy, and of the Russian Consulates in Turkey," as regards their persons, their possessions, their religious and charitable establishments and others ("et autres"). The provision with regard to Mount Athos in the same article is looked upon by the Greeks as the first open attempt on the part of Russia to obtain such a footing in the Peninsula as will enable her to dislodge from it ultimately the Greek element, and to substitute the Slav for it, a design which, it is supposed, she had long in view.

Some distinction, the object of which is not very apparent, appears to be made in the Preliminaries between the *status* of natives of Roumania and of Montenegro and Servia sending, or travelling, within the dominions of the Sultan. The Roumanians, until a direct Treaty is entered into between the Porte and the Principality, are to enjoy in Turkey all the rights guaranteed to the subjects of other European Powers; the Montenegrins, on the other hand, are to be subject to the Ottoman laws and authorities, according to the principles of international law, and the "established usages relating to the Montenegrins." The Servians, again, are to be treated according to the general principles of international law. It would appear, therefore, that the Roumanians will have a right to claim the benefit of the Capitulations, but not the Servians and Montenegrins.

The delimitation of the frontiers of Servia and Montenegro appear to be made upon no principle whatever—in fact, in direct violation of the one for which Russia has always contended—that of nationality. It is altogether of an arbitrary character. It is not justified by conquest, as Montenegro has not occupied by force of arms the large portion of Herzegovina that has been assigned to her. It is not based on the nationality of the populations, as districts, of which the large majority of the inhabitants, in some cases, I believe the whole of them, are Catholics or Mussulmans, are given to Montenegro, whilst others, exclusively Bulgarian, according to the pretensions of Russia herself, are assigned to Servia.

By the XIIIth Article the Porte engages to reopen the navigation of the Sulina branch of the Danube, and to indemnify those who have suffered in consequence of its interruption and of the war. It is to set aside, for this double object, 500,000 fr., from the amount due to it by the Danubian Commission. This arrangement would appear to be in direct contradiction to the undertaking given by Russia to the Powers that, at the end of the war, she would herself undertake to remove the obstructions she had placed in the Sulina Channel. No time is limited for the Porte to perform its engagement, nor is any provision made for completing the works, supposing the sum allotted be not sufficient for the two purposes for which it is intended. I understand that, as the Article originally stood, no sum was fixed, but a general undertaking was required of Turkey to re-establish the navigation of the Sulina branch. It was, I believe,

principally on a suggestion from Count Ignatiew that the specific sum for this object was inserted.

Whence, it may be asked, will Turkey derive any resources from her European Provinces during the next two years? The 50,000 Russian soldiers who will occupy Bulgaria are to be maintained at the expense of the Principality, and probably but a small part of its tribute will go to the Porte unless its payment be specially provided for. No arrears of taxes are to be demanded from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and they are to pay no revenue for two years. I need scarcely dwell upon the enormous indemnity obtained by Russia, and the grounds upon which the demands for the greater part of it were founded. Never before have claims so exaggerated and unjust been put forward between nations. If the information that reaches me be true, some of them would not bear investigation for a moment. I have stated to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 310 of the 6th instant, how the Porte has been led to hope that Russia will diminish the amount of the pecuniary indemnity, which, if rigorously exacted, must absolutely crush Turkey after the immense sacrifices she has been compelled to make to defend herself against an unrighteous aggression, the expenses of which she is now called upon to pay.

I have ventured to say that Russia has been wise and politic in abandoning demands which might, if insisted upon, have caused great irritation to England. It was politic on her part, because she is only delaying the accomplishment of that which, if left to time and events, must probably ere long happen. It cannot be supposed that if the terms of peace remain unmodified, and the confines of the new Bulgarian Principality are to be within a comparatively short distance of Constantinople, that city and the Bosphorus can long remain in the hands of the Turks. With them must go the Dardanelles. The occupiers of the European shores of the Straits must necessarily hold the opposite coasts and sufficient territory with them, which will lead to further encroachments upon the Asiatic territories of the Sultan. I will venture to say that there is not an officer in the Russian army who does not look upon the occupation of Constantinople by Russia as a mere question of time, and who does not consider that the events of this war have laid the sure foundation for it. If report speaks true, Count Ignatiew himself has avowed that he framed the Preliminaries of Peace to this end. It would thus be unwise for Russia to furnish England with an excuse for preventing now that which she may not be in a position to prevent hereafter.

The condition with regard to the opening of the Straits in time of war to commerce, and the undertaking of Turkey not to establish hereafter the blockade of the Black Sea and of the Sea of Azof, are, no doubt, meant to conciliate English public opinion. But when examined they really amount to little, as the engagement is only entered into by Turkey with Russia, and would not, I presume, be operative in the event of war between them, when the Treaty would no longer be in force.

I have thus ventured to place before your Lordship, with perhaps more frankness than I am entitled to employ, my views with reference to some of the principal questions raised by the Preliminaries of Peace. If I have sufficient grounds for forming them, I cannot but believe that should the terms exacted by Russia be carried out without very great modifications, the Turkish Empire must fall to pieces, not only in Europe, but in Asia and Africa too. This event, which may lead to the most momentous consequences, may be deferred for a shorter or longer period, but it appears to me inevitable, and consequently one for which England should be prepared; if no material change is made by the Congress in the Russian conditions. When Russia undertook the war of aggression which has ended in the utter defeat of Turkey, she declared that she did so as the "mandatary" of Europe. It was to carry out, she asserted, those reforms and changes in Turkish administration which the European Powers had considered necessary for the improvement of the conditions of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, and for their future just and equal government. It was not for the overthrow of his Empire, and for the purpose of bringing about a catastrophe which may affect the interests of most of the European States, and even the very existence of some. If the Great Powers were resolved to limit Russia to the accomplishment of the task she has herself professed to undertake, and to check vast schemes of ambition, there would still be the means of effecting all that Europe, in a spirit of justice and humanity, can desire, and to save the world from the calamities which must ensue from the fall of a great Empire, and the division of its fragments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 517.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 322.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, March 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which I received this day from Prince Gortchakow, transmitting an "aide-mémoire" in reply to the note I addressed to his Highness, communicating a copy of your Lordship's reply to Count Beust in regard to the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian Government for the meeting of a Congress at Berlin instead of at Baden-Baden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 517.

Prince Gortchakow to Lord A. Loftus.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{17}{29}$ *Mars*, 1878.

PAR sa note du $\frac{1}{13}$ Mars, votre Excellence nous a donné communication, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, de la réponse faite par Lord Derby à la proposition du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois concernant la réunion d'un Congrès à Berlin, au lieu de la Conférence à Baden-Baden.

J'ai l'honneur de lui transmettre ci-jointe un aide-mémoire contenant le point de vue auquel le Cabinet Impérial envisage cette réunion.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GORTCHAKOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 517.

Aide-Mémoire.

EN réponse à la communication faite par Lord Augustus Loftus de la dépêche par laquelle Lord Derby a répondu à la proposition du Comte de Beust relativement à la réunion d'un Congrès à Berlin, j'ai l'honneur de réitérer l'assurance que M. le Comte Schouvaloff a déjà été chargé de donner au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, à savoir: que le Traité Préliminaire de Paix conclu entre la Russie et la Turquie sera communiqué textuellement aux Grandes Puissances avant la réunion du Congrès, et que dans le Congrès même chaque Puissance aura la pleine liberté de ses appréciations et de son action.

No. 518.

Colonel Maude to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 3. Political.)
My Lord, *Warsaw, March 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Opolchenie or Landwehr of Russia in general, and of the Kingdom of Poland in particular, is ordered to be called out. The officers for this force are being selected and nominated. All men in Poland who are liable for military service are being warned to hold themselves in readiness for immediate service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS C. MAUDE.

No. 519.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 271. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 21, 1878.*

M. WADDINGTON, speaking to me most confidentially this afternoon, remarked that he must allow that there were solid grounds for the position which England had now taken up, viz., that the whole of the Russo-Turkish Treaty should be submitted to the Congress, and that this was an opinion shared by many Frenchmen. England, he said, took her stand upon former Treaties.

In corroboration of this I referred to an article in to-day's "Journal des Débats," which renders full justice to England's principle of remaining faithful to existing Treaties, and which explains that it is in the name of the public law of Europe that she pursues her negotiations and puts forward her claims.

With regard to Greece, too, M. Waddington told me that he agreed so far with Her Majesty's Government that her interests should be supported in the Congress; and he said that, although there were manifest difficulties in the way, he hoped something might be accomplished to serve the interests of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 520.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 22.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, March 21, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter dated the 11th ultimo, from Commander Hamond, of Her Majesty's ship "Torch," which has been forwarded by Vice-Admiral Hornby, reporting his proceedings, and having visited Varna, Bourghas, &c.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

P.S.—These papers being sent in original, it is requested that they may be returned when done with, observing that copies will be supplied if required.

Inclosure 1 in No. 520.

Commander Hamond to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

Sir, *"Torch," at Varna, February 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report proceedings of Her Majesty's ship, under my command, and to inclose a copy of a letter received from Her Majesty's Ambassador. According, however, to his Excellency's wishes, I first visited Rodosto, and then remained at Constantinople until the 6th instant.

On that date I proceeded up the Bosphorus, but was delayed by weather until the 8th, and then left for Varna, but being unable to make that port, I anchored on the 9th in Baljik Bay. I found the town in the hands of Cossack troops, numbering 1,000, and commanded by a General of Brigade (Yanoff), who offered every civility. Proceeded the next morning to Varna, found affairs there perfectly quiet, no exodus of fugitives taking place, Turkish local authorities having received orders to send them back to their respective villages.

There are 18 battalions of Egyptian troops here, under the command of Prince Hassan.

I intend to leave this evening for Bourgas Bay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHD. H. HAMOND.

Inclosure 2 in No. 520.

Mr. Layard to Commander Hamond.

Constantinople, January 23, 1878.

Sir,

I SHOULD feel obliged to you if you would return at your earliest convenience to Bourgas, in order, weather permitting, to visit Varna and its neighbourhood, and to ascertain and report to me the state of affairs in that part of Bulgaria. I should particularly wish to know whether the measures lately taken by the Ottoman Government have proved effectual in repressing the robbery and outrage which you reported to be taking place in the neighbourhood of Bourgas when you left, and it would therefore be desirable that you should be accompanied by Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy to assist you in obtaining the information required, especially as regards alleged massacres of Christians. It is important that the evidence upon which this information is forwarded should be trustworthy.

Your presence on the coast will no doubt be useful for the protection of British interests.

I should be glad if you would keep me informed by telegraph, as frequently as possible, of your movements, and would at the same time give me an opportunity of communicating with you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 520.

Commander Hamond to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, February 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency my arrival here, in obedience to orders received from Vice-Admiral Hornby.

In accordance with your wishes I made inquiries as to alleged massacres of Christians in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, and, accompanied by Mr. Brophy, Vice-Consul, I went to the village of Roum Yeni-keui. On the news of the burning of Aidos and Karnabad reaching them, the inhabitants of that place had taken refuge in their church and churchyard, which was surrounded by a wall.

A number (about 150) of Albanians and Circassians, led by an Albanian named Noure, came and demanded 6,000*l.* ransom; and on this being refused, they besieged the place, firing at the people from the tops of houses in the vicinity.

On the evening of the third day the door of the church inclosure was burst open, and these ruffians poured in, firing indiscriminately into the crowd. Owing to the darkness many of the inhabitants managed to escape, but most of the men who fell into the hands of the Albanians and Circassians were killed at once. All that night the women were outraged in the church and churchyard. Of women, eight were killed, but by gun-shot wounds. The whole number of people killed, according to a list taken with their names, amounted to 126. The dead had been buried where they fell, and I saw the graves all about the village. About two-thirds of the houses had been destroyed by fire. I had no opportunity of verifying reports from other places, but, from all I could gather, every village has suffered more or less in a similar way; generally money had been extorted with violence, and cases of murder and violation take place.

As regards Bourgas, the shops had all been pillaged before my departure on the 18th January, as I reported.

On the 24th, 300 Turkish troops and zaptiehs arrived from Constantinople in the Austrian steamer "Galatea," and were quartered in the town; and instead of repressing robbery, &c., these troops themselves completed the spoliation of the houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHD H. HAMOND.

No. 521.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Athènes, ce 22 Mars, 1878.*

IL résulte d'un télégramme de notre Vice-Consul à Volo que les villages d'Olympe, Rapsani, Carya, et Lithochori ont été pillés et saccagés par les Turcs, les femmes, les vieillards, et les enfants massacrés. Les femmes et les enfants qui ont pu échapper se sont réfugiés dans les montagnes, exposés de mourir de faim et de froid. Catastrophe sera complète si des navires ne vont pas les prendre.

No. 522.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 320.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 21, 1878.*

PRIME MINISTER assures me that up to this time Turkey has had no invitation to the Congress, although he has heard from myself and Count Zichy that the invitation had been sent on the 18th.

No. 523.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 322.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 22, 1878.*

SIR ARNOLD KEMBALL leaves for England to-day viâ Brindisi.

No. 524.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 22, 1878.*

I AM informed that full text of the Treaty will have been published to-day by English press. Proposed delimitation of Bulgaria, its subjection to Russian influence, and its large territorial aggrandizement (which is out of all proportion with that of Servia and Montenegro) amount to the eventual amalgamation of those territories with Russia. Turkish indemnity to be later arranged directly with Russia, independent of Congress, gives her complete hold over Turkey. Passage of merchant-vessels through Straits in peace and war safeguards Russia from any blockade. Whole Treaty amounts to destruction of Turkish rule in Europe and to partition of Turkey among Slavonic race under Russian protection.

No. 525.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 73.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 22, 1878.*

IN reply to Mr. Layard's last telegram, I have no objection, with your Lordship's sanction, to resume charge of Turkish interests on the Porte conveying to Mr. Layard in writing a request for me to do so, with expression of regret at Raouf Pasha's conduct.

No. 526.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Athens, March 22, 1877.*

IT is earnestly hoped here that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople will use his influence with the Patriarch of the Greek Church there to prevent him from yielding to any wishes of Russia with regard to Bulgarian Church.

(Above sent to Constantinople.)

His Majesty the King sent for me this morning and desired me to express again his personal thanks to Her Majesty's Government for having proposed that Greece should be represented at the coming Congress.

No. 527.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 79.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 22, 1878.*

THE Austrian Delegation voted yesterday evening the adoption of the Gov-ern ment proposal for a loan of 60,000,000 florins by a majority of thirty-nine to twenty.

No. 528.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1878, 3·45 P.M.*

ENDEAVOUR to obtain and send home copies of the maps of the Montenegrin, Servian, Bulgarian, and Armenian frontiers attached to the Treaty.

No. 529.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1878, 6·30 P.M.*

INFORM Porte that Lord A. Loftus will resume charge of Turkish interests.

No. 530.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 22, 1878, 6·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 73, you should at once resume charge of Turkish interests.

No. 531.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 163.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March 22, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 213 of the 16th instant, reporting what had passed between yourself and M. Cairoli in the course of a conversation which you had held with his Excellency on the 14th instant, with reference to the proposed Congress and the question of Greece being represented thereat; and I

have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you have held on these matters, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 532.

The Earl of Derby to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 171.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 22, 1878.*

THE German Ambassador has informed me confidentially that Prince Bismarck is in doubt as to whether it would or would not be desirable to cede the presidency of the intended Congress to Prince Gortchakow, who is understood to be very eager for it on personal grounds.

I said that Her Majesty's Government were not disposed to raise objections on questions of form, and the question of presidency seemed to me little else; but I was bound to tell him that I thought opinion here would be unpleasantly affected by the fact of the first place in the Congress being assigned to a Russian statesman. Russia would, in any case, secure great advantages by a European recognition of the new position of affairs, and it did not seem wise to carry into effect whatever arrangements might be decided on in a manner which would create an appearance of their having been come to under Russian dictation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 533.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 33. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, March 8, 1878.*

ON the receipt this morning of letters from Erzeroum, dated 24th ultimo, I forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the following telegram:—

"Ismail Pasha evacuated completely Erzeroum; Russians began entering on 22nd; 20,000 were in town on 24th, as many in surrounding villages. No disturbance."

It would seem that, before their departure, the Turkish troops made a demonstration in front of Ismail Pasha's house, offering to fight and be killed to the last man, rather than give up the town. He is said to have wept bitterly at the necessity of obeying orders. Ismail Pasha, who is much praised for his energetic conduct during the siege, marched out of Erzeroum with the last troops.

The sick and wounded who could walk left at the same time, but it would seem that they died by hundreds on the journey to Erzinghian and Baiburt. The roads they followed could be traced by the dead bodies seen along them shortly after their passage.

The Russians entered the town without any display of pomp. Early in the morning of the 22nd three battalions took possession of the forts evacuated by the Turks, and other Russian troops continued to arrive in the town in perfect order. On the 24th, the number of those that had entered was reckoned to amount to 20,000 and part of other 20,000 troops which were at that time quartered in the surrounding villages were expected to come in.

It is stated that there are about 12,000 sick and wounded Russians in these villages, and that a large hospital is to be erected in one of the forts outside the gate leading to Kars.

Loris Melikoff was expected to depart for Tiflis, leaving the command-in-chief of the army of occupation to General Heimann. This General has established his quarters in the British Consulate, which, at his request, was placed at his disposal by the British surgeons of the Stafford House Committee, who had been allowed by Mr. Consul Zohrab to live in it until the expiration of his rent in August next.

The Mussulmans of Erzeroum, who seem to have behaved admirably during the siege, are very depressed in spirits. Many of them emigrate to other localities. The

Armenians, on the contrary, are jubilant, and show great servility to the Russians, while they grow arrogant towards the Turks.

The manner in which the Russians keep order in the town is spoken of in high terms. No disturbances of any kind have taken place.

I am informed that the credit of 250*l.* allowed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for the relief of the destitute at Erzeroum had reached Mr. Cole just as his supplies had run short.

It would seem that the Russians were astonished to find Erzeroum so well provisioned.

Telegraphic communications are not yet opened, but the post has begun to ply between this and Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S. *March* 9.—The following paragraph occurs in a letter dated Erzeroum, March 1, which I have just received:—

"We are completely under Russian authority now, but everything has gone very quietly; there have been no disturbances whatever, and the people seem to accept the new rule even with some satisfaction."

A. B.

No. 534.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 345.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

I LEARN from an unofficial, but, I think, trustworthy source, that insurrection is rapidly spreading in the neighbourhood of Salonica. Bands, acting under the orders of the Central Committee of Athens, have appeared in various places. One of these bands captured and carried off as prisoners on the 26th February two Jewish merchants who were returning from the salt works of Citros to the sea.

An agent was afterwards sent to Salonica to ask for a ransom of 5,000 liras for the release of the prisoners. The Jews being poor, only 100 liras were sent, which were refused by the banditti, who, however, reduced the ransom to 3,000 liras. A subscription got up amongst the Jewish colony of Salonica produced a sum of 350 liras, but it is not yet known whether the brigands will accept this, although the Greek Bishop sent with it a letter interceding for the prisoners. In the meantime the same band killed two other Jews, inhabitants of Colundro.

It is said that there are about 2,000 insurgents at Colundro, and that bands have been seen near Verica, where the Government has sent two battalions, lately withdrawn from Pristina. A few companies, I am told, have been sent also to Caterina, which is still in the hands of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 535.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 346.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to state that I lost no time in bringing to the notice of the Prime Minister your Lordship's telegram of the 12th instant, with reference to the fugitive women and children on the Albanian coast. His Highness stated that he saw no objection to Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" removing them; but that an inquiry into this matter, in which the Italian Consul at Corfu had taken part, showed that there were no women and children requiring removal. The Turkish Admiralty and the Turkish Consul at Corfu will, however, be instructed to offer no opposition to Her Majesty's ships embarking such fugitives, should any still remain on the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 536.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

PRINCE REUSS informs me that he spoke to the Grand Duke Nicholas on the subject of the return to what may remain of their homes of some of the unfortunate Mussulman fugitives, who are in vast numbers suffering the greatest privations in this city and elsewhere.

His Imperial Highness stated that such as belonged to the towns in which they could receive protection from the presence of Russian troops would be allowed to go back, but that he could not permit the inhabitants of districts and places not so occupied to do so, as they would be at the mercy of the Bulgarians, and he should be held responsible for the consequences that might ensue. Under these circumstances the Turkish Government will not, for the present, send back any of the fugitives to Roumelia, and the condition of these unhappy people, amongst whom disease is now showing itself to a very serious extent, is as bad as ever. Reports constantly reach me of fresh massacres of Mahommedans by the Bulgarians, but as I am cut off from all communication with Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, I have no means of verifying them. Mr. Blunt informs me that he is also unable to receive letters from Mr. Calvert.

Consul Reade states that there are about 220,000 Mussulman fugitives, chiefly women, children, and old men, in Shumla and the neighbourhood, in the most deplorable condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 537.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 349.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 15, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 301 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Reade, containing further details relative to the alleged massacre at Djuma.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 537.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, March* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th ultimo and that of the 2nd instant, respecting the Djuma massacre, I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency, herewith inclosed, translation of a letter from the Djuma Christians to a person in Shumla, whom I had urged to obtain from the Christians of Djuma a calm recital of what really occurred. I requested to have the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and I think now I am as near it as I ever shall be.

Your Excellency will perceive, as regards Salih Pasha, that his conduct was not near so bad as it was at first represented to be, and nothing whatever is said as to the arming of the prisoners by the Kaimakam. The first accounts I obtained from Shumla were given at a moment when the survivors were still under the influence of terror inspired by the occurrence. The inclosed letter, therefore, drawn up in calmer moments, is more likely to be nearer the truth.

It is still, however, much to be regretted that the authorities at Shumla have as yet done nothing whatever but arrest a number of persons, many of whom the Christians do not accuse, whilst the worse of the culprits, and who are accused as being the ringleaders, and who were seen to massacre their relatives and friends, are still at large.

Not a single Christian of Djuma has been called before the tribunal, and, in fact, they have allowed all those who are able to give positive evidence to return to Djuma.

For all this the General Fazli Pasha is responsible, and, under him, Sami Pasha, President of the Military Tribunal at Shumla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 537.

Letter from the Christians at Djuma.

(Translation.)

Djuma, February 17, 1878.

Sir,

IT is with sad and broken hearts that we relate the deplorable and heartrending event which took place on the 16th and 17th January last at Djuma, a city once flourishing in commerce, and now a ruin. We little know of the instigating causes of this event, if it was premeditated or whether it occurred accidentally. We only know that on Sunday, the 15th January, when the population of Osman-Bazaar arrived at Djuma naked, bare-footed, and in extreme wretchedness, in a condition unable to go further, Salih Pasha, the commander of the Osman-Bazaar division, summoned the Chiefs of Osman-Bazaar and Djuma, and told them that on the next day, Monday, they ought to prepare to go to Shumla. The chief citizens, with earnest entreaty, requested his Excellency that, if it was impossible to remain any longer at Djuma, and if they had no other alternative than to go to Shumla, they begged him to assist him in finding at least one cart for every two houses, so that they may be able to transport their requisite clothes and provisions. His Excellency, touched by these representations, calmed and told them to go on the following day, Monday, and see him again, and he would tell them what to do, promising them that he would obtain the necessary instructions by telegraph, and thus the Délégués of Osman-Bazaar and Djuma went back to their homes, called the population, and calmed them. By order of his Excellency, however, in the evening about 12 o'clock (sunset) the town crier publicly announced in the streets "that every soldier, Bashi-Bazouk, or other Turk who was found in the varoush (central Bulgarian quarter) armed, and without a reason for being there, would be shot, and also that every Turk or Christian who was seen after 1 o'clock with or without a lantern would be hanged before the konak." By these means the people were calmed that day.

On the following day, Monday, we were surprised to find that the army, during the previous night, at about 8-9 o'clock, had been quietly withdrawn, and in the morning early the zaptiehs also. Until we understood what was the matter, and whilst waiting for the answer which his Excellency promised, we saw that there was neither Pasha, Government, nor telegraph office. Half-an-hour later the house of Alexis, full of ammunition of war, and situated in the locality of the fair, the mosques containing wheat, and various Christian and Mussulman houses were set on fire. The air then rang with firing, cries, shrieks, &c., and the scene was so horrible that no pen can describe it. The other details you have received from those who escaped to your city.

The victims massacred in Djuma and on their way to Shumla by the Circassians and zaptiehs from the villages, Zeibeks, Bashi-Bazouks, and Turks from Djuma, are:—

From Djuma, men and women	160
From Osman-Bazaar	16
Bulgarians from the districts of Tirnovo, Gabrovo, and Selviero (carpenters and reapers), about	60
Wounded	40
	276

We herewith inclose a list of the names of the greater part of the victims from Djuma. But the names of the victims from Osman-Bazaar and from Tirnovo, Gabrovo, and Selviero districts being unknown to us, we put down only their number. It is to be remarked that there are a good many lost whose bodies have not been found. We do not know whether they are killed or are alive.

We give to you these informations for the present.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HADJI HIA HADJI MAREOFF.
(For the population.)

No. 538.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 350.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople, the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, and Mr. Longworth, respecting matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 538.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Adrianople, March 5, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, in translation, an order and a notice, which have been published in the Russian, Bulgarian, Greek, and Turkish languages, by General Svietchen, Military and Civil Governor-General of Adrianople.

The first of these documents (Inclosures 1 and 2) is chiefly interesting for the definition which it contains of the limits of the Province of Adrianople under the Russian Governor-General.

As regards the second (inclosures 3 and 4), it is to be regretted that the salutary measures which it prescribes, of disarming all the population indiscriminately, was not from the first enforced to the rural districts against the Bulgarians, who would thereby have been prevented from inflicting on the Turkish inhabitants the bloodshed and total ruin which accompanied and followed the advance of the Russian army.

In this neighbourhood, at least, all the Turkish villages and farms have been burnt and pillaged, and many massacres of the Mussulman peasantry are spoken of as having taken place. It is difficult, however, to obtain reliable information on the latter subject, nor is it possible, in the present unsettled state of the country, for me to investigate the circumstances on the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 538.

Order by the Governor-General (Vali) and General Commandant of Adrianople and its Dependencies.

(No. 1.)

(Translation.)

BY the order and will of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in the Balkan Peninsula, I have been appointed to the Military and Civil Governorship of Adrianople and its dependencies.

The boundaries of that Province have been fixed as follows:—Beginning from the district town of Bourgas, on the shore of the Black Sea, the line of demarcation is drawn through the district town of Kezil Yenidjé to Tirnova Seimenli on the banks of the Maritza. Thence it extends to the district town of Haskeui, and from Haskeui it follows the road to Mestanli as far as the watershed of the streams which fall into the Rivers Maritza and Arda. It then runs along the Ikhtal Balkan Mountains and the mountains of Aktché Tepesi and Iheristépé to the Kenghir Mountain, which separates the waters which flow into the Arda on the one side, on the other into the Mestan Korasu and the river which empties itself into the Gulf of Karagatch. Then keeping out of the basins of the streams which empty themselves into the Archipelago, it extends from the mountain of Melikova Yaïlasi to the district town of Maeri. From Maeri it follows the line of the sea-shore to the Gulf of Saros, whence it is carried by way of Doulkhan Kédikeni to the district town of Sharkioi, on the shore of the Sea of Marmora. Following the sea-shore from this place as far the mouth of the Kara Sou, near Karlehaka, it joins the line of demarcation laid down between that place and the Lake of Dercos and the village of Tchekmejik. From

this place it follows the shore of the Black Sea to the above-mentioned town of Bourgas.

The said towns of Bourgas and Haskeui are not comprised within the limits above defined.

I call the above decision to the notice of the *de facto* local authorities, and to the inhabitants residing within the limits of my jurisdiction, and I intrust the direction of public affairs to the town and village Councils as in the past, the town districts and village districts being administered by local notables regularly elected by the inhabitants. Whilst confirming in their functions those persons who are at present date administering local affairs, I desire that in cases where any of the members have given in their resignation or have withdrawn themselves from the conduct of affairs, other proper persons shall be elected in conformity with municipal usages. By these means, and with God's favour, the affairs of all will be regulated without delay in accordance with the strictest rules of justice. The public tranquillity being thus insured, it will be incumbent on every person to occupy himself with his affairs, and so to promote commerce, which is the source of wealth.

I order the Kaïmakam of Cazas to send in, through their Municipal Councils, the necessary reports stating the condition of each caza, and furnishing the names of the local functionaries.

When the administrative and judicial Councils shall be constituted, notice thereof will be given in a special order.

(Signed) General SVIETCHEN.

January 24
February 25 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 538.

Notice.

(Translation.)

BY command of the Military Commanders and Governor-General of Adrianople and its dependencies, the Municipal Council publishes the following orders:—

1. All persons whomsoever residing at Adrianople must deliver up to the Government authorities their arms and ammunition against receipts which will be given to them. The owners' names will be registered and distinctive marks will be attached to the arms with the view to their being returned to their owners whenever it may be necessary. Should any person neglect to give up his arms and ammunition, not only will he be fined according to law, but his arms will be confiscated.

2. In case of a fire breaking out no person shall fire shots or raise cries on pain of being fined.

3. It is forbidden for any person to enter a house where he is a stranger. If any person should have occasion to visit a house under such circumstances he must apply to the police.

4. Bakers, grocers, chandlers, flour-dealers, and butchers, must sell their articles of trade in conformity with the prices fixed by the Municipal Council.

5. It is absolutely forbidden for any person to raise cries or make a noise in the streets and market-places. Persons infringing this order will not only be fined but imprisoned.

Inclosure 4 in No. 538.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, March 8*, 1878.

SEVERAL detachments of sailors of the Russian navy are reported to have passed through this town on their way southwards within the last fortnight, and a further body, said to be 500 strong, arrived to-day. As regards the earlier detachments, some care appears to have been taken to keep the men from public view during their passage through Adrianople, but those now here are allowed to circulate freely in the streets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 538.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, March 7*, 1878.

I HASTEN to report to your Excellency, by this day's mail, that I have just returned from a tour in the district of Agia, where I succeeded in gathering the following facts relative to the outrages and massacres committed in those parts by the Turkish irregular troops.

It appears that at Agia the Bashi-Bazouks have comparatively been well behaving, as they have only been accused of a few acts of petty robbery. Not so three hours south of Agia, at the village of Kukurava, which was the scene of an engagement between the Turkish troops and the insurgents. On the 23rd February last, the night of the battle, the irregular levies of Ghegas and Zeibeks, infuriated at the losses they had sustained, plundered and destroyed the two churches belonging to the village; and then, early on the next day, instigated by 250 Mahomedan villagers who had joined them, they proceeded to Vulgarine, a Christian village three hours further south, where they commenced a work of havoc. Happily, at their approach, the villagers, men, women, and children, fled from their homes to the mountains, and thus made good their escape from almost certain death. As it is, some were pursued and killed. In a search of five hours, and within a radius of four miles from the village, I discovered eleven bodies. Eight of these were Coja Bashis, or headmen of the village, whose presence was demanded by the Turkish officers at Kukurava as a proof of their allegiance. They were proceeding there when they were met, killed, and burnt by the Ghegas and Zeibeks. Their names are: Giligori, Joannis Pordoyuni, Theodoros Christon, Giorgios Papadopulos, Christos Barkanas, Athanassios Statopulos, Demetrio Macromlis, Joannes Papageorgiou.

The lives of two of these unfortunate men were not extinct when thrown into the fire; the posture of one body indicated an attempt made to crawl out of the flames; the position of the hand and arm of the other, together with a will I picked up close by, served to show that the man must have thrown it out whilst he was burning.

The acts of murder, pillage, and destruction raged on until the arrival of the regular troops, who bravely put a stop to these outrages, extinguished the fires, and recovered the greater portion of the booty, though the irregulars were treble their number.

Only three houses were burnt to the ground, instead of the whole village, as it is declared; and the recovered effects are now locked up and sealed in a church. In connection with this, I should mention the names of Lieutenant-Colonel Hagi Hassen Bey and Major Abdula, as two of the officers who, by their prompt and resolute conduct, have been the means of preserving the village from utter destruction. I need scarcely add that were some distinction conferred upon them for their services, it would serve as an encouragement and incentive to others, and would produce a favourable impression among the Christians.

Before concluding, I must not omit to say that the report prevailing at Larissa, Volo, and Agia, of twenty to thirty people having been massacred in a large cavern an hour's distance from Vulgarini, is a mere fabrication, as I carefully visited the place, and though I found traces of recent occupation, I could detect no signs of violence either there or in its vicinity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 538.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Mr. Longworth.

Excellence; *Rodosto, le 11 Mars*, 1878.

J'AI crois de mon devoir de vous informer qu'hier au soir à minuit est arrivé sur rade un bateau à vapeur portant un officier d'Etat Major Russe qui a eu entrevue de deux heures avec le Prince d'Oldembourg, Commandant de la ville; il est reparti sans qu'on puisse savoir pour où.

On m'assure d'une manière positive, et que je ne puis mettre en doute, que ce bateau parti hier matin de San Stefano a fait des sondages tout le long de la côte jusqu'ici.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 530.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 19. Political.)

Corfu, March 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a translated copy of the newspaper article refered to by the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura in his Report forwarded as an inclosure in my despatch No. 17 of the 11th instant.

2. The disclosures in the document in question prove but too manifestly the depths of demoralization in which the parties who now sway public opinion in Greece and direct the national energies are sunk. I cannot help participating in the forebodings to which the writer gives utterance as to the tendency of the present state of things to plunge the country into civil war.

On this head, in speaking of the organization of Insurrectionary Committees at the period of their first formation, I have already ventured to express a decided opinion.

The Greek polity as at present constituted is unlike that of any other which history, ancient or modern, records; at least, as far as my reading goes. It is neither more nor less than a "crowned democracy—a democracy which both reigns and governs," if the power lately exercised of turning out one Administration and prescribing the component elements of another are to be taken as the test of sovereign power.

The country where such a state of things could exist—and not only exist, but be gloried in—must be regarded as demoralized to the very core.

3. Referring to the bill of costs connected with the late abortive attempts, of which Corfu has been the centre, I am enabled to state on reliable authority that the sums expended by the Patriotic Committee amounts to 600,000 fr.

4. Of the above amount 75,000 fr. were consigned at one time to a Chimariote Primate, of the name of Lekka, for the purpose of buying over his clansmen, and inducing them to take part in the insurrection. But after the lapse of a week or two, Lekka reported to the Committee here that his efforts to carry out the proposed object had utterly failed, and that not a single Chimariot could be induced to take part in the enterprise. He, however, kept the money, and has lain *perdu* in his mountain fortresses ever since.

5. In fact the Chimariots, who are the Swiss of the Albanian tribes, have nothing to gain but everything to lose by union with Greece.

They are at present all but independent of the Porte, pay scarcely any taxes, and, as regards civilization, are much in advance of the general population of Greece, having well organized schools in every village, and a flourishing gymnasium at Libovo for the higher branches of education. To tie them to Greece would be like tying the living to the dead.

But, as members of a confederacy in union with Epirus, they might, perhaps, be induced to come to terms, with reservation, always of rights and privileges in present possession.

6. No well authenticated instances of cruelties committed by the Turkish soldiery—since the suppression of the recent attempt to create a revolt in Epirus—have, so far, reached us. Some 150 prisoners have been escorted to Janina to be placed at the disposal of the military authorities, and I have not the slightest doubt from what I know of the character of the General-in-chief, Abdi Tcherkess Pasha, but that they will be mercifully dealt with.

I have, &c,
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 530.

Translation of an Article published in the Athens Newspaper "Perseverance," dated from Carousam, and copied into the "Omonia," of Santa Maura, of the 7th instant.

My Brother,

I WRITE to you to-day agitated by feelings of pain and indignation. Here a disgusting comedy is being enacted, derogatory to and subversive of the honour of our country. Tens of thousands of drachmas are being lavishly squandered without any practical advantage. Those who have shared in such sacrilegious pillage have incurred a fearful responsibility.

The country, I trust, will not bear with apathetic indifference such a state of things. I am much afraid that the present crisis will issue in a civil war, which must, without doubt, involve the nation in many calamities; but will, at the same time, I would fain hope, extirpate radically the cancer which has been preying upon the vitals of the country for so many long years.

Thousands of Chassepôt and Milonk rifles have been uselessly scattered on all hands, clandestinely made away with, sold at a vile price to rude peasants, without contributing to the sacred object for which they were intended. The insurgents of Radovitzi are incessant in their demands for arms and ammunition, protesting that, from sheer necessity, they will be compelled in the end to surrender themselves to the Turkish authorities. Thousands of muskets have been despatched, but not a single one has reached them! Is such a state of things endurable? Do not the guilty parties reflect on the terrible account they will have to render when the hour of national retribution arrives?

Funds have been distributed to many here for the purpose of engaging volunteers. I give you the precise figures of the results:—

Zorkas received a sum of money sufficient for the enlistment of 700 men, and took the field at the head of 23.

Koutonicas was paid for 600, and marched forth with 18.

Iskos was paid for 200, and presented 6.

Stratos and Scalzodimos were paid for 180, and joined at the head of 30.

Scalzas was paid for 100, and brought to the muster 25.

Mimilianis was paid for 50, and went forth with 3.

Elevthéri Giáli's was paid for 50 men, and started with 7.

Scalzojannis was paid for 20 men, and brought with him 20.

Misios was paid for 25, and produced 7.

Parisis, in fine, was paid for 150 men, and set out with 13.

From all which it appears that funds for the enlistment of 2,075 men were disbursed, while no more than 146 were actually enrolled!

In view of such a picture could any true lover of his country refrain from wailing and tears?

Inclosure 2 in No. 530.

Conémenos Bey to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

M. le Consul,

Corfu, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Février*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer plus bas, pour votre information, copie de la protestation que j'ai cru devoir adresser aujourd'hui à M. le Nomarque au sujet de l'embarquement et débarquement en face en Epire, au vue et au su de tout le monde, et avec la co-opération d'employés civils et militaires du Royaume, d'armes de munitions et d'hommes ayant à leur tête des officiers de gendarmerie, dans le but notoire de troubler la tranquillité dans cette partie du territoire Ottoman.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CONEMENOS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 530.

Conémenos Bey to the Nomarch of Corfu.

(Translation from the Greek.)

M. le Nomarque,

Corfu, February $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

In the presence of the friendly relations existing between the two Governments, I am compelled, M. le Nomarque, with deep regret, to protest, in the most official manner, against the undisguised transfer to the opposite coast of Epirus, and under the eyes of the Greek authorities, of arms, ammunition, and men, accompanied by officers belonging to the gendarmerie of this garrison, with revolutionary objects.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) CONEMENOS.

No. 510.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 23.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{10}{22}$ *Février*, 1878.

JE vous fait parvenir en traduction ci-jointe, les parties les plus intéressantes d'un rapport du Consul Royal à Larisse, en date du 8 courant, et je vous prie de faire l'usage que jugerez nécessaire des renseignements y contenus.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) THÉODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 510.

M. Salamides to M. Delyanni.

Larisse, le $\frac{2}{14}$ *Février*, 1878.

IMPOSSIBLE de faire une description exacte et détaillée des actes de rapine et de violence commis chaque jour par les irréguliers, Albanais et Guégues, au préjudice des Chrétiens. Partout où elles passent, ces hordes déguenillées et faméliques traînent à leur suite la dévastation et la désolation; elles enlèvent tout ce qu'elles trouvent; elles maltraitent et molestent les habitants. Dans les villages de Pazaraki, Crollar, et Bekriler, les Albanais rouèrent de coups plusieurs habitants, puis ils s'en allèrent emportant tout ce qui leur était tombé sous la main. Mêmes procédés de leur part dans les villages de Zakinat, Tzopa, et Kinusgonnaria; là ils ont violé les femmes à ce qu'on assure. Du village de Bekriler disparurent trois garçons de plus de 17 ans, et il est assez probable, qu'ils ont été tués par des Koniars, que l'on a trouvé en possession des montures des enfants disparus.

Des Guégues munis d'un ordre écrit, émané du Gouverneur, pour réquisitionner des bêtes de somme, se rendirent dans les villages de Kasademerdji, Bakratzi, Hadji-Moustafar, Halilzi et Sipli, et ils exigeaient 100 bêtes de chaque. Les paysans qui ne pouvaient fournir un si grand nombre de bêtes étaient contraints par toute sorte de mauvais traitements et de tortures de payer en place, chacun 500 piastres.

Les pâtres de la tribu des Guégues se conduisent de la même façon, et de plus ils ont entièrement détruit la prochaine récolte de plusieurs villages, en lançant leurs troupeaux sur les champs ensemencés. Les hommes eux-mêmes de la garde urbaine de Larisse en ont fait autant. Ces hommes, dits "Milié," qu'on avait envoyés, il y a quelques jours, à Pharsale, pour escorter un convoi de munitions, se sont livrés à tous les désordres possibles dans les environs de Pharsale. Impossible d'espérer qu'il sera porté remède à ce déplorable état de choses; il est plutôt à craindre que cela n'aille de mal en pis, car les autorités civiles et militaires se trouvent entièrement paralysées, et dans l'impuissance de prendre aucunes mesures répressives. Leur incurie et leur tolérance à l'égard de ces pillards et de ces maraudeurs enhardissent, au contraire, ceux-ci à commettre chaque jour de nouveaux crimes. On avait amené ici, il y a quelques jours, dix Albanais qui avait fait des horreurs dans le village d'Ardami, près de Crikala; hier ils ont été mis en liberté.

Dernièrement le bruit avait couru que les insurgés avaient incendié quelques villages Turcs; mais la fausseté de ce bruit n'a pas tardé d'être établie, et l'on sait maintenant que c'est les Albanais qui avaient mis le feu dans ces villages pour forcer leurs habitants à les abandonner, et à laisser ainsi ces Albanais libres d'y exercer leurs déprédations. Bien des villages Turcs ont été de la sorte saccagés par les Albanais. Les Koniars s'en sont plaints aux autorités de Karditza qu'à Crikala, et en plusieurs villages, jusqu'à 70 sacs remplis du butin fait par les Albanais. On a réuni tous ces sacs dans une maison de Karditza, où les propriétaires volés vont reconnaître leurs effets et les reprennent.

En outre de tous ces faits, qui ne sont que la continuation des crimes commis journellement en Thessalie depuis plusieurs mois, et qui, à force d'être renouvelés sans cesse, ne font guère plus beaucoup d'impression, un forfait atroce et odieux a été commis le 28 du mois passé. Le "Mirahi" de Karditza, accompagné d'un escorte de cavalerie et de plusieurs Turcs à cheval, conduits par Osman Bey, Primat et Aga de Karditza, sortirent dans la plaine pour y faire le guet; lorsqu'on arriva près du village de Pazaraki, Osman Bey aperçut quatre paysans qui cheminaient tranquillement avec leurs bêtes. Il se mit aussitôt avec dix de ses hommes à la poursuite des paysans; ceux-ci effrayés, se mirent à courir vers le village de Hallal pour s'y réfugier; ceux qui

les poursuivaient, tirèrent alors sur eux, et trois des paysans reçurent des blessures et tombèrent; le quatrième se jeta dans la rivière, et put se sauver.

Le féroce Osman Bey s'approcha des blessés, qui ne l'étaient que légèrement, et les décapita vivants; puis il lécha son sabre teint de sang, en s'écriant, qu'Allah lui avait enfin fait la grâce de lui procurer l'occasion de boire du sang infidèle.

Un autre Turc décapita le troisième paysan qui, de même, vivait encore; puis fichant les têtes de ces infortunés sur les points de leurs armes, les Turcs en question rentrèrent triomphalement à Karditza, en répandant le bruit qu'ils rapportaient des têtes d'insurgés.

Ces paysans assassinés étaient de paisibles pères de familles, habitants le village de Pofadés, que les Koniars avaient envoyés à la recherche de leurs bêtes égarées en chemin.

Le meurtre de ces innocents excita donc l'horreur parmi nos populations, qui songeaient aux atrocités de même nature commises l'année passée en Bulgarie. Vingt autres paisibles habitants de différents villages de la plaine, arrêtés par le Mirahi de Karditza, furent jetés dans les cachots. L'aspect de ces malheureux, conduits en prison, était navrant; enchaînés comme des scélérats, couverts de guenilles, excédés de fatigue et ne pouvant presque plus marcher, ils étaient, malgré leur état affreux, battus sans pitié, et les soldats les tailladaient même de leurs sabres pour accélérer leur allure. La plupart avaient le corps et la tête couverts de blessures.

(Signé) SALAMIDES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 510.

Telegraphic Despatch addressed to Greek Legations in Europe, dated Athens, February $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

COLONEL SAPOUNTZAKI, Commandant-en-chef troupes Grèce Occidentale, télégraphie que des soldats appartenant aux bataillons Chasseurs échelonnés sur ligne frontière, côté Épire, nombre 200 à peu près, viennent de déserter. Commandant assure que presque tous déserteurs sont Épirotes et ont quitté leurs rangs, conduits par Sous-Lieutenant dit bataillon, nommé Collino Jaïnectari, Épirote aussi.

Ce fait déplorable a surpris Gouvernement, qui avait invité à temps tous les Chefs des corps d'armée exercer surveillance active sur leurs hommes, afin prévenir désertion, et les avait prévenus qu'il sévirait avec énergie, non seulement contre désertion, mais aussi contre Chefs qui ne l'auraient pas empêchée. Ainsi Gouvernement, aussitôt nouvelle reçue, a rappelé Commandant Sapountzaki, ordonné mise non-activité Colonel Danglis, chef bataillon déserteurs, rayé des cadres armée Sous-Lieutenant Baïnectari et destitué Préfet Acarnanie Douras. De plus, et désirant prévenir pareils accidents, a ordonné éloignement bataillon Chasseurs de ligne frontière et leur internation à Domitza et Agrinion, comme aussi internation à Cravassara et Bonitza du reste des troupes stationnant sur ligne frontière de ce côté. Ces mesures ont été certes trop sévères. Mais Gouvernement n'a hésité y procéder, désirant ne laisser subsister aucun doute sur ses intentions, et se faisant un devoir frapper mal dans sa racine pour l'empêcher se répéter. On ne saurait nier sentiment sympathie, existant dans pays pour insurgés Épire et Thessalie, et poussant grand nombre de volontaires à franchir frontières pour se réunir aux insurgés, ni revoquer en doute éclatante manifestation de ce sentiment chez originaires d'Épire et Thessalie.

Mais, tandis que le Gouvernement s'est décidé exercer tout son pouvoir légal pour contenir ce courant, nouvelles de atrocités commises chaque jour dans provinces insurgés par troupes Ottomanes irrégulières affaiblissent action Gouvernement et viennent d'ébranler même attachement à discipline des soldats déserteurs. Je m'empresse vous donner ces renseignements pour vous mettre à même de répondre à représentations qui vous seraient faites. Toutefois ne manquez pas en faire tout usage qui paraîtrait nécessaire et utile.

(Signé) P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 540.

Telegraphic Despatch to M. Delyanni, dated Volo, February 15, 1878.

(Traduction.)

LE 8 courant un combat eut lieu à Concourava entre les insurgés, conduits par Theodore, et 1,200 Ottomans réguliers et irréguliers commandés par Youssaga, Chef de la Gendarmerie de Larisse. Il dura quatre heures et finit par la retraite des insurgés. Les Ottomans envahirent le village et saccagèrent trente maisons. Le 9 courant, les Ottomans marchèrent contre Voulgaréni, où il n'y avait pas d'insurgés. Les primats du village, Gregori Jean Coumbourdoryanaki, Theodore Christon, Georges Papadopoulo, Christo Basbana, Athase Stathopoulo, Démétrius Mnerouti, Jean Papageorgion, allèrent au devant d'Amoussaga. Les soldats Ottomans fondirent sur eux et se mirent à les égorger. Les familles des paysans prirent la fuite vers les montagnes. Quinze d'entre elles ont été arrêtées dans leur fuite; elles sont encore détenues à Voulgareni; leur sort est inconnu. Cent-vingt maisons du village de Voulgareni ont été pillées complètement, cinq en ont été incendiées. Beaucoup de femmes ont été deshonorées. L'église a été saccagée, les images saintes ont été brisées; les vases sacrés même n'ont pu échapper à la déprédation.

A la suite de ces scènes de dévastation les habitants du village Keramictia transportèrent leurs familles à Metzila et à Zagora, abandonnant leurs foyers et tous leurs biens.

Inclosure 4 in No. 540.

Letter dated Larissa, February $\frac{15}{27}$, 1878.

(Traduction.)

VOYAGER à présent sur les grandes routes, c'est chose extrêmement dangereuse, les Albanais et les Guégues se livrant sans cesse à des attaques contre les voyageurs, et nul n'ose venir à Larisse. Le village de Mouzaki, où les insurgés ne firent qu'une bien courte apparition, qui ne fit pas chose commune avec eux, et qui même prêta un asyle à beaucoup de Musulmans des villages voisins ainsi qu'au Mudir de Petrilo, fut mis au pillage par les Albanais, aussitôt que les insurgés s'éloignèrent. Le 8 courant, près du village de Koukousava (district d'Aghia) une centaine d'insurgés, sous le commandement de Tzelio, livrèrent un combat contre 1,200 Turcs réguliers et irréguliers; on se battit pendant 4 heures; à la nuit tombante les insurgés se retirèrent à Voulgareni, puis à Keramidi, où se trouvait massé, dit-on, un corps plus nombreux d'insurgés. Ce combat coûta aux Turcs une soixantaine d'hommes; parmi les insurgés quatre seulement furent blessés. Deux jours plus tard le bruit courut que les irréguliers Turcs avaient pillé, incendié et massacré à Koukousava et à Vulgareni.

Les insurgés une fois retirés à Keramidi, les Guégues et les Zicheks, qui avaient pris part au combat sus-mentionné, ainsi que quelques Konines des villages Turcs circonvoisins, envahirent Koukousava (dont les habitants, saisis d'effroi, avaient éloigné leurs familles) et on pillèrent les maisons, d'où ils enlevèrent les meubles, les denrées, le bétail, qu'ils transportèrent dans les villages Turcs adjacents; de plus, ils profanèrent l'église, en emportèrent les vases sacrés et y brisèrent les saintes images. Ensuite, ils se rendirent à Voulgareni, où ils firent pis encore; non-seulement ils y saccagèrent l'église et les maisons dont ils incendièrent même plusieurs, mais ils tuèrent aussi ces primats inoffensifs, après leur avoir pris les 5,000 piastres qu'ils apportaient pour leur rançon au Major de Gendarmerie, Amous Aga, qui leur avait promis que les soldats n'entreraient pas dans leur village. On assure enfin qu'ils violèrent même des femmes.

Nous apprenons que les familles des gens de Keramidi et d'autres villages adjacents, menacés par les Guégues et les Zeibeks, se refugièrent dans les montagnes, où ils courent le risque de mourir de faim et de froid, à moins de se livrer à ces hommes et de subir tous les maux que leur férocité infligera, à ces malheureuses créatures.

No. 541.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, March 23.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{10}{22}$ *Mars*, 1878.

JE m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-inclus, en résumé, les nouvelles que j'ai reçues cette semaine de Candie.

Vous recevrez aussi, sous bande, quelques exemplaires d'une petite brochure contenant le décret rendu par l'Assemblée Générale des Crétois le $\frac{8}{20}$ courant, ainsi que le mémoire qui l'accompagne.

Je vous prie de faire de ces pièces et des renseignements qui vous sont communiqués par le résumé ci-joint l'usage que vous jugerez opportun.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) THEODORE P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Letter dated La Canée, February 14, 1878.

(Traduction.)

LES hostilités ont commencé dans notre île; elles se poursuivent même avec beaucoup de vigeur.

Dans les premiers jours de cette semaine le Capitaine Jorglaniaki, de Selino, a attaqué de nuit le fort d'Alykiano, où réside actuellement le Caïmacam, et qui depuis longtemps lui sert de Conak (Hôtel de la Préfecture). La garnison repoussa vigoureusement les assauts réitérés des Seliniotes. Ceux-ci se rendirent, pourtant, maîtres de la bourgade et, au nombre de 600 ou 700, ils assiégent le Caïmacam dans son chateau.

Dimanche matin le bruit s'est répandu dans notre ville que des Chrétiens en grand nombre avaient attaqué les Turcs et étaient aux prises avec eux à Malaxa Kalami (Djeddin), Vamo, et autres lieux circonvoisins. On ajoutait qu'ils s'étaient portés vers le port de la Suda, et qu'ils attaquaient les troupes qui se trouvaient dans l'Arsenal, ainsi que celles campées aux environs d'un fort dominant cette position.

Aussitôt les vaisseaux Turcs qui étaient à l'ancre dans le port sus-dit—dont trois cuirassés, "l'Orkhanie," "l'Iglafié," et un autre, arrivé de Constantinople depuis cinq jours à peine—ont ouvert le feu contre les insurgés; mais comme les balles de ceux-ci les atteignaient, ils durent quitter leur mouillage et se retirer hors de la portée des fusils des Chrétiens.

Dans la soirée nous apprîmes que quatre soldats Turcs avaient été tués, et un Bachi-Bazouk Candiote blessé; celui-ci fut transporté dans la ville. Nous ignorons quelles pertes ont essuyés les insurgés et qui conduisait cette entreprise si hardie, à laquelle on ne saurait comparer aucun des faits d'armes accomplis en Crète, même pendant la révolution de 1821. On a su seulement que quelques femmes et trois Chrétiens, restés dans le village de Zoukalaria, près de Suda, ont tenté de fuir, que les trois hommes, tombés dans les mains des Bachi-Bazouks, ont été massacrés, mais que les femmes sont parvenues à se sauver en se réfugiant dans les cantonnements des troupes régulières. Le combat près de Suda était fini à midi, mais il continuait à Djeddin et à Kalami. Dès lors, la plupart des vaisseaux se dirigèrent vers Calyvés, d'où ils canonnèrent les insurgés jusqu'au soir. Nous n'avons pu nous procurer des renseignements plus détaillés sur les combats livrés dans ces parages et plus loin encore, vers Vamo.

Dans l'après-midi, bien des gens se tenaient sur nos remparts et contemplaient de là, à l'aide de leurs longues vues, ce qui se passait à Malaxa, où l'on distinguait la fumée produite par les armes de ceux qui tiraient sur les chateaux forts; tout-à-coup, on vit apparaître vers le côté ouest de la forteresse du faubourg de Galata quelques corps d'insurgés; bientôt s'ouvrit un feu très vif entre les troupes cantonnées, et fortifiées dans ce faubourg (1,000 réguliers environ avec deux canons et 500 Bachi-Bazouks Candiotes) et les Chrétiens, qui étaient à dix minutes de marche du faubourg, et qui avaient pour chefs Vardonoïannaki, Spyridaki Mokandri et, au dire de quelques uns, Criari lui-même, avec ses Seliniotes. Ce combat, dont on distinguait nettement les évolutions du haut de nos remparts, dura jusqu'à la nuit. On disait en outre, que Hadji-Michali s'était emparé du fortin d'Alykiano, que la garnison s'était rendue prisonnière, et qu'il l'avait laissée rentrer librement dans notre ville; on ajoutait, enfin, qu'un autre corps d'insurgés avait attaqué le fortin de Perivoli. Nous étions

naturellement ici très anxieux depuis le matin. Les Musulmans établis hors de la ville lesquels sont pourvus d'armes Martini, fournies par le Gouvernement, s'empressèrent de prendre part aux combats engagés contre les Chrétiens. Beaucoup même des Musulmans de la ville en sortirent dès le matin dans le même but. Mais plus tard, Adossidi Pacha ordonna aux gendarmes de ne plus laisser sortir ces irréguliers et il convoqua un Grand Conseil, composé des Beys de la Canée, pour délibérer avec eux sur ce qu'il conviendrait de faire. Vers les 5 heures du soir nous vîmes plusieurs bandes de Musulmans de la plus basse classe, conduites par différents chefs Candiotes, se rendre à l'Arsenal, où ils étaient armés pour être expédiés contre les Chrétiens. Cela continua encore le lendemain, Lundi, depuis le matin. On transporta, en outre, plusieurs canons de gros calibre des remparts au bord de la mer sur ceux tournés vers l'intérieur de l'île et se levant vers le côté ouest de la ville.

Lundi matin, le crépitement d'un feu nourri se faisait entendre du côté d'Aghia d'où, nous a-t-on dit, les Chrétiens escortaient jusqu'à proximité de notre ville les Turcs faits prisonniers en ces parages, et dont ils avaient saisi les bêtes de somme et les provisions de farine. On continua de se battre, du matin au soir, à Galata, Alykiano, Varypetro, Périvo, et dans les faubourgs de Perivolia et de Mourinés. Notre ville était pendant tout le jour en proie à une telle émotion, que la populace Musulmane, y compris les enfants, s'armait et sortait par bandes de 100 hommes et plus, bannières en tête, se rendant en hâte aux divers endroits où l'on se battait. Quelques-uns rentraient blessés pendant le jour; le soir on apporta les oreilles et la lèvre supérieure garnie de moustaches d'un Chrétien, que ces irréguliers avaient rencontré désarmé, et qu'ils avaient taillé en pièces.

Pas un des Chrétiens habitants hors de la ville ne put y entrer de toute la journée, à cause des bandes susmentionnées qui, dispersées partout, rendaient toutes les routes inaccessibles en se ruant sur n'importe quel Chrétien désarmé, homme, femme, ou enfant, qu'elles rencontraient se dirigeant vers la ville.

Quelques habitants d'Akrotirion qui, manquant de pain, s'étaient vus forcés de venir ici pour se procurer de la farine, rencontrés par des Bachi-Bozouks ont été horriblement maltraités par eux et dévalisés; force leur fut de se réfugier avec leurs familles dans le monastère dit de la Sainte Trinité et sis à Akrotirion. Voilà ce qui s'est passé dans notre district ces deux derniers jours.

A l'instant même nous venons de recevoir de Retlymno des lettres du 12 de ce mois; elles relatent ce qui s'est passé et la déplorable situation des Chrétiens de cette ville, ménacés par les Turcs de subir toute sorte d'avanies. "Notre district," disent ces lettres, "a l'air d'être un champ de bataille; ordre est donné aux miliciens Turcs de ne pas franchir la ligne établie par le Gouvernement hors de la ville; les miliciens Chrétiens ne vont de même, que jusqu'à cette ligne, lorsqu'ils escortent des paysans ayant besoin d'entrer à Retlymno et qui, soit dit en passant, n'arrivent que par groupes."

Les abus qui étaient moins criants, depuis l'arrivée de Sélim Bey, redeviennent insupportables depuis son départ. Beaucoup de gens du bas peuple se promènent en armes tous les jours; ils sortent de la ville pour couper et détruire des milliers d'arbres. Hier il est sorti dans ce but environ 500 de ces hommes. Un pyroscaphe de guerre est venu aujourd'hui de la Suda; les quelques soldats que Sélim Bey avait amenés ici pour renforcer la garnison de notre ville se sont embarqués sur ce bâteau. Il paraît qu'ils sont nécessaires dans votre district, à cause des hostilités, qui y ont commencé. Cette mesure a satisfait les Musulmans, qui espèrent étouffer aisément l'insurrection par la force des armes. Nul doute que les Turcs, qui sont encore aux environs, ne se hâtent maintenant de rentrer dans la ville. Figurez-vous la situation que nous fera l'accumulation de tant d'éléments pareils.

Notre Moutessarif a été destitué et est parti pour Constantinople. Il a été remplacé provisoirement par l'ancien Caïmacam de Mylospotamo, Essad Bey, homme actif et énergique, à ce qu'on assure.

No. 542.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, March 22, 1878.*

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Black Sea fleet stated this morning that he has been instructed to cancel engagement of the Russian Navigation Company to bring back the troops, as they have been ordered to remain at Constantinople.

No. 543.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Odessa, March 22, 1878.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has informed me that Greek Vice-Consul at Volo states that Turks have pillaged and destroyed three villages near Mount Olympus, that they have massacred old men, women, and children, that some families have escaped to the mountains where, unless rescued, they must perish.

Perhaps ship of war could bring away fugitives if near the coast. Her Majesty's ship "Wizard," lying at the Piræus, though small, might be of service in event of Admiral having no other vessel at his disposal.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 544.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, March 22, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador communicated the Treaty to M. Waddington at five this afternoon.

No. 545.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 329. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 23, 1878.*

IT is reported here that Count Corti is to be Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs. His views and sympathies, as far as I have been able to judge of them, are entirely Russian and German.

No. 546.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23.)

(No. 80.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 23, 1878, 5·45 P.M.*

ROUMANIAN Agent tells me that Prince Gortchakow distinctly declares to Roumanian Agent at St. Petersburgh that he would not allow the Article of the Treaty relating to cession of Bessarabian Moldavia to be discussed by the Congress.

No. 547.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 23, 5 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 23, 1878, 1 P.M.*

IF Count Corti, who is expected here on Monday, accepts Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Cabinet under presidency of Signor Cairoli may be considered as formed.

No. 548.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 23, 1878, 4·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's telegram of 22nd, repeated to you from Athens, inform Porte that Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" will proceed to coast of Thessaly to assist in removing destitute families whose villages have been destroyed.

No. 549.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878, 5·10 P.M.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from Greek Vice-Consul at Volo, stating that Olympus and neighbouring villages have been pillaged and sacked by the Turks, and the women, old men, and children massacred. Those who escaped are in the mountains, and will die of cold and hunger if not removed by ships.

No. 550.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated telegram from Greek Vice-Consul at Volo, stating that Olympus and neighbouring villages have been pillaged and sacked by the Turks, and the women, old men, and children massacred. Those who escaped are in the mountains, and will die of cold and hunger if not removed by ships.

No. 551.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878, 5·25 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of March 22, Admiralty have been asked to instruct captain of "Wizard" to assist in removing fugitives from coast of Thessaly, and Mr. Layard has been instructed to inform the Porte.

No. 552.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 400.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copy of a correspondence as marked in the margin which I have received from the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country respecting alleged Turkish excesses in the neighbourhood of Mount Olympus.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 553.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 402.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878.

WITH reference to Mr. Wyndham's telegram of the 22nd instant, which has been repeated to your Excellency from Athens, and relates to the alleged pillage and destruction by the Turks of some villages near Mount Olympus, I have to request that you will inform the Porte that it is proposed that Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" should proceed to the coast of Thessaly with a view to assist in removing the fugitive and destitute families said to be collected there.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

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* [illegible]

No. 554.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 52.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 23, 1878.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 22nd instant, relative to the alleged pillage and destruction by the Turks of some villages near Mount Olympus, I have to inform you that I have suggested to the Lords of the Admiralty that Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" should be instructed to proceed to the coast of Thessaly, and assist in the removal to a place of safety of the fugitives said to be collected there.

I have informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the above, and have requested him to communicate on the subject with the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 555.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 8. Consular.)

My Lord, *Bosna Serai, March* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Porte has informed the Governor-General of Bosnia of its intention to withdraw the caimés from circulation, and has suggested the imposition of a tax on bread of twenty paras an oke to furnish the means of redemption. The Porte, however, adds that should there be any objection to this tax, some other more suitable to the locality might be proposed. The matter has been under the consideration of the Administrative Council, but no decision has yet been come to.

The amount of caimés sent to this province by the Government since their introduction is said to be 25,000,000 piastres; but as the exchange has generally been somewhat higher here than in Roumelia, there has been a steady influx of this paper currency, and it is estimated that at the present moment there cannot be less than 40,000,000 in circulation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 556.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 72. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cairo, March* 16, 1878.

THE Khedive repeated to me in conversation to-day his strong suspicion of the existence of some secret intrigue on the part of Russia against Egypt, which he thought might take the form of Russia urging some modification of the privileges granted to Egypt by recent Firmans from the Porte, with the view of obtaining greater control over Egypt, by rendering her more dependent upon Turkey. His Highness professed to know nothing positively beyond a belief that the Grand Vizier had spoken to both the English and French Ambassadors at Constantinople about the views of Russia with respect to Egypt.

I took the opportunity to sound His Highness upon the truth of the report of his suspicions of English designs upon Egypt. He utterly denied it, and attributed the rumour to the intrigues of Hafim Pasha, and of his niece, Princess Nesli, the wife of Khalil Chérif Pasha, who, he said, was originally betrothed to his son Prince Tewfick.

His Highness' language about Russia and England was perfectly satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

P.S.—Chérif Pasha has stated to me, in confidence, to-day that he concurs in the Khedive's suspicions of Russian intrigues to weaken the autonomy of Egypt, to which he thinks the Porte might possibly lend itself with the view of seeking some compen-

sation, in the stronger grip upon Egypt, for the losses that Turkey has sustained by the war.

C. V.

No. 557.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 325.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 24, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Admiral has telegraphed for Her Majesty's ship "Ruby" to proceed at once to inquire about massacre near Mount Olympus, and to assist fugitives if necessary.

Sent to Athens.

No. 558.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 326.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, March 24, 1878.

INFORMATION contained in your telegram from Odessa since confirmed by reports I receive from San Stefano, that preparations for sending troops to Russia have been suspended. Porte has placed a considerable body of troops in the neighbourhood of Bayukdere and at Beicos.

No. 559.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 82.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 24, 1878, 7·30 P.M.

COUNT ANDRASSY, in discussing the terms of peace, said to me that there was very much in it to which Russia could not expect the Powers to assent.

Austria would not consent to the Servian and Montenegrin frontiers being brought close together, and the proposed Bulgaria would render impossible the maintenance of the Turkish Empire in Europe, but he cared little for the razing of the Danubian fortresses.

The business of the Congress would be to prove this, and to try to obtain a modification of the proposal, but if this could not be done the Congress must then recognize the fact that the Porte could not administer the remaining provinces, and must bring forward some other plan.

It will not, he says, be sufficient simply to object to Russian proposals without suggesting something else, and he more than insinuated that the remaining provinces in the west must be united to Greece.

When I expressed a doubt whether Her Majesty's Government would accede to this dismemberment of Turkey, he asked me what they had then intended by proposing that Greece should be represented at the Congress.

I said that I believed it was for the purpose of representing the interests of the Greek race living in the provinces threatened by Slav encroachments.

There was much in Count Andrassy's language to produce the impression that he is not far from adopting Prince Bismarck's view regarding Turkey in Europe as already dead, and proceeding accordingly.

In the event of the adoption of such a project of dismemberment, there can be little doubt that Austria would take possession of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and the territory between Servia and Montenegro.

No. 560.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, March 24, 1878, 6 P.M.

I HAVE had a long conversation with Count Andrassy, who objects strongly to course of Her Majesty's Government in insisting that Russia should give assurances that the Congress shall have the right of examining every Article of the Treaty.

He maintains that no such demand should be addressed to Russia, who did not invite the Congress, and has no right to say what shall be the course followed by it.

The text of the Treaty has been communicated to all the Powers, and it is proposed that these should meet in Congress to examine its bearing upon existing European arrangements, and of accepting or refusing their consent to the modifications which it may introduce in those arrangements.

It is evident, said Count Andrassy, that, in order to perform this task, the Congress must examine each individual Article, for the purpose of seeing whether it touches the previous Treaties or not, and he cannot understand how you can suppose that any Power would oppose that moderate proceeding.

He appeared to suspect that Her Majesty's Government wished to have a pretext for declining to join in the Congress.

I said that this was far from being the case, but that as an indispensable preliminary, they required a guarantee for the examination of the whole Treaty, and as a proof that Russia did not intend that this should be done, I instanced the declaration of Prince Gortchakow to the Roumanian Agent on the subject of Bessarabia.

Count Andrassy said that, whatever Prince Gortchakow might have said to Prince Ghika, it was certain that he would not attempt to hold such language to the Powers.

No. 561.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, March 24, 1878, 3 P.M.

I AM informed officially that copies of the maps referred to in your telegram will be communicated to your Lordship by Count Schouvaloff.

No further official copies now obtainable, but I will send them on publication later.

No. 562.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

Odessa, March 24, 1878.

IT is certain that Government steam-vessels from Sebastopol and Odessa continually take torpedoes to the Bosphorus, but I presume English dispatch-vessel watches their movements on arrival, or that they are otherwise known.

No. 563.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 24.)

(Telegraphic.)

Athens, March 24, 1878, 3·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, having heard that Her Majesty's ship "Ruby" has been ordered to the coast of Thessaly, I have suggested to the captain of the "Wizard" to remain at the Piræus.

No. 564.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)
Berlin, March 17, 1878.

My Lord,

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of yesterday respecting Count Münster's proposal, that without waiting till the Powers have arrived at an agreement on the preliminary conditions of the meeting of the Congress, there should be a Preliminary Conference of the second Plenipotentiaries or Representatives at Berlin, I made inquiry as to the exact object of such a measure, and have been informed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, that it is merely intended for the purpose of establishing the order of business, so as to save time when the Congress meets.

By another private source of information, I have been very confidentially told that the plan of the three allied Governments is to divide the subjects for discussion into twelve sittings, which they think will be sufficient for the settlement of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 565.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 217. Secret.)
Berlin, March 19, 1878.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram marked Secret of yesterday's date, I have been very confidentially and privately informed, that Count Andrassy is acting in concert with Prince Bismarck and Prince Gortchakow, in regard to the Congress and its results.

He wishes to bring about a pacific settlement, and declares himself ready to accept the Turco-Russian Treaty of San Stefano, but asks his allies in return to help him to extricate himself out of the false position he is in between his Hungarian supporters, who are ready for a conflict with Russia, if necessary, and the Emperor Francis-Joseph who, with his Slav and German subjects, wishes to avoid that conflict, and would prefer a compromise and the annexation of Bosnia, to war with Russia.

Count Andrassy is of opinion that his friends should allow him to obtain through the Congress, such concessions respecting the size of Bulgaria and the early withdrawal of the Russian troops of occupation, as could be proclaimed in Hungary to be a triumph of his policy, and thereby enable him to pacify his Hungarian supporters, and give his assent to the rest of the Treaty of San Stefano.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 566.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 221.)
Berlin, March 23, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 145 and 147 of the 16th and 18th instant, I have the honour to state that Count Münster has already informed the German Government that Her Majesty's Government will not consent to enter any Preliminary Conference until they shall have received a satisfactory assurance as to the conditions which they have laid down as those on which their joining in a Congress will depend.

In talking the matter over with Herr von Bülow, his Excellency observed to me that when England and Russia were agreed in regard to those conditions, a considerable saving of time might be effected by the meeting of the proposed Preliminary Conference in regard to matter and form for the deliberation of the coming Congress, and when the Plenipotentiaries themselves arrived in Berlin they would be able to proceed to the real work before them without delay or inconvenience.

I fully agree with Herr von Bülow in thinking that a preliminary understanding

in regard to form and order or business would be a convenient saving of time; but so long as it is uncertain whether the proposed Congress meets or not, the question of preliminaries may be allowed to remain open also.

Having, however, learnt from some of my colleagues, since speaking to Herr von Bülow, that they had understood his Excellency to say that the meeting of a Preliminary Conference should precede even the sending out of the invitations by the German Government to the Powers to meet in Congress in Berlin, I have taken steps to ascertain whether this condition is to be put forward by the German Government, and will let your Lordship know as soon as I hear from the German Minister for Foreign Affairs how the matter really stands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 567.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 229.)
Vienna, March 20, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, after a discussion which lasted two days, the Hungarian Delegation passed unanimously the vote of credit for 60,000,000 of florins demanded by the Government.

Previously to the vote being taken, Count Andrassy addressed the Delegation.

Alluding to the relations of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy with the German Empire, his Excellency is said to have declared that they were of the most intimate and cordial nature, and that for his part he did not attach to the phrase *beati possidentes* any meaning on the part of Prince Bismarck that no alterations were to be made in the Russian proposals. The German Chancellor would hardly condescend to merely register as President of the Congress all the terms laid before it of the peace between Russia and Turkey.

It had been stated that no guarantee existed that all points of Austro-Hungarian interest would be open to deliberation in the Congress. "In respect to this point," Count Andrassy is reported to have said, "there can no longer exist any difference of opinion, for the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh has explicitly declared that it will previously to the meeting of the Congress bring to the knowledge of the Powers all the so-called preliminary conditions of the Peace of San Stefano, and accordingly each Power will be in the position of being able at the time of the Congress to express an opinion as to which points should be considered as of European interest, and which not."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 568.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)
Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE reason to believe the Austrian Government to have been for some days in possession of the authentic substance of the Russo-Turkish Treaty.

If such is the case, no communication on the subject having been made to Her Majesty's Government, it would seem to imply that, notwithstanding the confidential negotiations which have been going on between us and Count Andrassy, he continues to concert in secret with the two other Imperial Cabinets.

Baron Orczy has expressed to me with great confidence, his conviction that Russia will not make any serious stand in favour of the extension she has proposed to give to the new Bulgarian Principality, which is the point to which Austria attaches the greatest importance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 569.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 231. Confidential.)

Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM again obliged to despatch the messenger without having been able to see Count Andrassy, who has continued to be exclusively occupied with the Delegations, which will not dispose of the vote of credit till to-morrow at earliest.

I told Baron Orczy this morning that I was anxious to see the Count as soon as he had a moment's leisure, for it was long since I had any conversation with him, and I wished clearly to understand what the positions of our two Governments were, with reference to the confidential communications which they had exchanged with the view of meeting any extreme pretensions that might be put forward by Russia.

The conditions of the peace imposed upon Turkey were now more or less accurately known; but, as far as I was aware, Count Andrassy had not conveyed to Her Majesty's Government any opinion in regard to them.

I wished, I said, to ask whether Count Andrassy had been equally reticent at Berlin and St. Petersburgh, and whether he meant the three Imperial Cabinets to concert together, or our two Governments confidentially to exchange their views.

Baron Orczy said that he hoped I might be able to see Count Andrassy, and ascertain his views within the next few days; but in the meantime all he could himself say was that he was convinced that they were in no way changed or modified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 570.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 232. Confidential.)

Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I ALLUDED in a recent despatch to the untrustworthy character of Kiepert's ethnographical map, which was used by the Conference at Constantinople.

Happening to speak of this map to Baron Orczy, his Excellency mentioned to me, as a fact for which he could vouch, that it had been prepared to Russian order and at Russian cost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 571.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 233. Confidential.)

Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the course of conversation with Baron Orczy this afternoon I asked him whether the Austrian Government still continued to receive encouragement from Prince Bismarck to take possession of Bosnia.

His Excellency laughed, and answered that Prince Bismarck was as much in favour of it as ever, but did not at all wish Austria to limit her acquisitions to Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Upon being asked what compensation would be expected for Germany for this large extension of Austria, Baron Orczy answered that of course Prince Bismarck would require something for Germany, but he had no notion what it would be.

Baron Orczy's language and manner indicated that there was little disposition on the part of the Austrian Government to listen to the prompting from Berlin upon that matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 572.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 234.)

Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the words used by Baron Calice, and reported in my telegram of the 18th instant, were to the effect that the invitation to take part in the Congress had been sent to the Porte, they appear not to have been literally accurate.

The message sent by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the Porte was that it was proposed to have a Congress to which it was hoped the Sultan would send a Delegate, and that as soon as the day for holding it was decided the formal invitation would be sent from Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 573.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 236.)

Vienna, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

THE impression appears to prevail in some quarters that a barrier against further Slav encroachment in European Turkey might be found in the annexation to Greece of some portion of the neighbouring provinces, but I am unable at present to say whether this notion finds favour with the Austrian Government or not.

It is scarcely necessary to point out the fallacy of any such calculation.

The total annihilation of the Turkish Empire in Europe would no doubt be accelerated by a still further reduction of the territories left to her by Russia; but the supposition that by the acquisition of Thessaly or Epirus, the Kingdom of Greece would be in a position to stop the ultimate absorption of Constantinople into the great Slav State, which it is proposed to create, is a palpable delusion.

The project may, however, commend itself to two different classes of persons.

The first consists of those who think the present opportunity should be taken advantage of to put an end to the Turkish domination in Europe, which they are anxious for, without much regard for what may follow afterwards.

The other class of persons that I allude to, and it is not a small one, comprises those who, in order to avoid the necessity of making a firm stand against the Russian encroachments, to the consequence of which they can no longer be blind, are ready to make a pretence of believing that an effectual counterpoise to it had been provided.

Great Britain and Austria might thus make a show before the world of having obtained a concession from Russia which that Power would readily grant, with the knowledge that it had secured the attainment of its great design.

An immediate difficulty and danger of war would, however, for the moment, be averted, and if Bosnia and the Herzegovina were at the same time annexed to Austria, very many persons in this country would be satisfied without looking to the ultimate consequences of the arrangement, and without troubling themselves with criticizing the exhibition of public morality which would be offered, if a Congress, assembled for the purpose of deciding whether Russia was not imposing inadmissible conditions on her conquered foe, were to insist upon the prostrate victim being subjected to still further spoliation.

What is now requisite is by protecting the Greek element to endeavour to find in it some barrier against further Slav encroachment, and this might be to a certain extent practicable by obtaining an improved administration of the provinces, coupled with a large restriction of the extent proposed to be given to the new Bulgarian State, but if the formation of such a Slav State, as is intended by Russia, should be permitted, Greece must be consigned to perpetual insignificance, and Europe must be prepared for further Slav extension along the Ægean and the Bosphorus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 574.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March 25.*)

Admiralty, March 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extract from a letter from the Lieutenant commanding Her Majesty's ship "Wizard," reporting on the state of affairs at the Piræus.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 574.

Extract from a Letter from the Lieutenant commanding Her Majesty's ship "Wizard."

"Wizard," at Piræus, February 21, 1878.

SINCE my last letter of proceedings dated 8th instant, the Greeks have been more quiet, no disturbances having taken place. Volunteers leave frequently for the frontier in the Greek steamers, their departure always taking place at night, some of the vessels conveying cases of arms; it is impossible to ascertain their movements, as information is so contradictory.

The defensive earthworks at the Piræus are being slowly advanced, few men being employed on them.

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No. 575.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 25.*)

(Very Confidential.)
(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* , 1878.

IT is impossible for me to exercise a pressure in St. Petersburgh, such as is contemplated in your Excellency's telegram of the 21st of this month, in order to induce Russia to give way in the latest phase of the question on which she is at variance with England. I always was of opinion that we could demand and ought to demand that Russia should lay the whole Treaty of Peace before the Powers. This has been done: everything else is the business of the Congress. What the Congress will do or will not do does not depend upon Russia. What Russia concedes or does not concede can in no way prejudge the decisions of the Congress. That is why I do not consider the question as put by England a happy one, and I could not take any steps in St. Petersburgh to support it, without, in my opinion, to a certain extent giving up common rights of the Powers.

Your Excellency will be pleased to explain this. It seems to me that it would be better to stand firm about the Conditions of Peace than to make difficulties about the meeting of the Congress. Try to impress the British Government in the sense of your Report of the 20th of this month, with which I completely agree. I shall speak in the same sense with Elliot.

No. 576.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 327.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 25, 1878, 2·40 P.M.*

RAOUF PASHA, who arrived here yesterday evening, came to me this morning, by order of the Sultan, to apologize for not having called upon Lord Augustus Loftus. He states that he did not call on the German Ambassador, but met him casually at Prince Gortchakow's; and that he did not call on any one at St. Petersburgh, thinking it best, for various reasons, not to do so. He informed me that the Emperor agreed to give up Bayazid, but would not make any further concession.

(Secret.)

Raouf Pasha says that, judging from what he heard at St. Petersburgh, he believes that Russia would be disposed to withdraw her demand for the extension of Bulgaria to Roumelia, and to accept Balkans as the limit, and to make other concessions, if England and Austria, or even England alone, were to hold firm language to her. He was informed that Russian troops would not be withdrawn from San Stefano, and other places occupied by them in Roumelia, until the British squadron left the Sea of Marmora, but that they were ready to agree with Her Majesty's Government for a simultaneous withdrawal. He was anxious to persuade me to endeavour to prevail upon Her Majesty's Government to consent to the scheme, stating that a number of Turkish transports would be sent very shortly to Russian ports to bring back the Turkish prisoners, and that they could transport the Russian troops to Russia, so that, with the additional assistance of Russian steamers from Odessa, the greater part of the Russian army could be removed to Russia, leaving only 50,000 for the occupation of Bulgaria.

No. 577.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 328.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 25, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS will be received by the Sultan to-morrow. He will come in Russian yacht, with some of his Generals. Visit will be returned, but it is not yet decided whether on board yacht or at the palace of Beylr Bey.

No. 578.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 329. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March 25, 1878.*

PRIME MINISTER has asked me, very confidentially, whether it would be possible for him to come to a strictly private understanding with Her Majesty's Government as to what concessions might be demanded of Russia at the Conference. The points to which, he says, the Porte attaches the greatest importance are:—The limiting of Bulgaria to the north of the Balkans; the retention of Olti and Mariman, in Armenia; and a considerable reduction of the pecuniary indemnity. If Her Majesty's Government would be prepared to support Turkey in these and any other points to be agreed on, his Highness would do his utmost to obtain the concurrence of other Powers.

No. 579.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 25, 1878.*

I AM inclined to believe that the Russian Government have (given ?) up hopes of conciliating England, and are now directing all their attention to securing neutrality of Austria. General Ignatiew left yesterday for Vienna on a mission with that view.

No. 580.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 25.*)

(No. 76.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, March 25, 1878, 9·45 P.M.*

GENERAL IGNATIEW is the bearer of a letter from the Emperor Alexander to Emperor Francis Joseph, and Prince Gortchakow has represented it as a mission of conciliation.

No. 581.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, March 25, 1878, 3·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

TRY and ascertain from Count Andrassy what is the boundary for Bulgaria he is prepared to insist upon at the Congress, and what line he intends to pursue as to Russian occupation. Does he agree to a Principality being formed?

No. 582.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 210.) *Foreign Office, March* 25, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to instruct your Excellency to endeavour to ascertain from Count Andrassy what boundary for Bulgaria it is his intention to insist upon, when the question comes to be considered in the Congress; what is the course which he is prepared to pursue with regard to the Russian occupation of the province; and whether he will agree to its formation into a Principality.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 583.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 12. Political.) *Salonica, March* 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 9th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, containing two inclosures, reporting the events relating to the insurrection in Thessaly and Epirus, and the arrival here of medical men and stores for the military hospital and the wounded Ottoman soldiers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 583.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, March 9, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith inclosed, to your Excellency a Proclamation in the Greek language in original, together with a translation into English, which has been sent to me and to all the Consuls of European nations in this city from the insurgents in Mount Olympus, with a request that it may be forwarded to their respective Governments. I have kept a copy of the translation, which I shall have the honour of transmitting next post to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

His Excellency the Vali has sent 1,500 soldiers in a steamer on Wednesday last, the 6th instant, against these insurgents and "volunteers" (who have been joined by the bandits in Mount Olympus), and to-morrow two battalions more will leave with the Commander, Asaf Pasha, and some field pieces. This Asaf Pasha has just come down here by railway, with nearly all the troops who were at "Uscup" and "Mitrovitza," and they are being sent on, some to quell the insurrection in Mount Olympus, and others that in Thessaly, on Mount Pelion.

Drs. Eccles and Beresford, of the Stafford House Committee, have arrived here; and also Dr. Cruikshank and two other medical men, with stores from the part of the Red Crescent Society, who have come here for the wounded Ottoman soldiers, and beside these, we have Temple Bey, and several other doctors attached to the military hospital, now here. About three weeks ago a subscription was set on foot, and

liberally responded to, for the purpose of purchasing linen and bandages in connection with the above object.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—I have the honour to transmit a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Suter's despatch of the 7th March to me, reporting the events in Thessaly, which has just come to hand.

Inclosure 2 in No. 583.

Proclamation of the Insurgents in Mount Olympus.

(Translation from the Greek.)

To the Honourable Governments of the European Powers.

THE many year old wrongs—wrongs latterly greatly aggravated, with which honourable Governments have from time to time been made acquainted by their representatives, have compelled the inhabitants of Macedonia to have recourse to arms, for the protection of their lives, their honour, and their property.

The representatives of the various communities of Macedonia having assembled this day, have overthrown the tyrannical power of the Sultan, and have proclaimed the annexation of Macedonia to the motherland of Greece, and have chosen us for the establishing of the provisional Government of the revolution empowering us to address ourselves to the Christian Powers, for the purpose of soliciting their powerful protection of our righteous warfare, as well as their compassion on behalf of our wives and children, imperilled by Turkish savagery.

We feel confident that the watchfulness of the European Powers over the future of the East will be extended to the whole of Macedonia, a country ready for the enjoyment of her liberty, and for union with her motherland Greece; ready also to deliver herself up, if necessary, to the flames of fire and perdition, rather than remain under the abominable Power that has for administration precept the profanation by Circassians, Gheghas, Zichecks, and Bashi-Bazouks, of our honour, and the sanctity of our hearts.

All the obligations and all the promises that the Government undertook to fulfil on behalf of its subjects and towards the Great Powers have proved to be intentionally false and deceitful. The Turkish Government has several times granted civil rights, but tyranny is unrelaxing, and the burden of our calamities seems to be endless and more and more unbearable, inasmuch as the said Government is in dissolving and vanishing condition.

For these reasons we have been obliged to take up arms, in order to be allowed to die as men and Greeks, if we are not permitted to live as free and rational beings.

Litochoro (Olympus), February 19, 1878.

(Signed) E. A. COROVANGO, *President.*
A. ASTERION.
G. B. ZACCARADI.
Rev. NIKIFORO, *of the Monastery of Petra.*
Rev. ATHANAS GIORGIONE.
JOHN G. VERGHIDI.
JOHN NICHOLAS.

We pray the Consul of England in Salonica to forward the same to the Government that he so worthily represents.

Inclosure 3 in No. 583.

Vice-Consul Suter to Acting Consul Barker.

Sir, *Larissa, March* 7, 1878.

THE insurrection continues to spread, and we learn that various bands which for some time past had been collecting on the sea-shore of the Gulf of Salonica, and

were prevented by the deep snow from acting effectively, have now taken the field. These, said to number together over 2,000 insurgents, are reported to have captured the small fortress of Platamona, and to have occupied Litochoro, Kavia, Aghios Dimitri, and various other villages under Mounts Ossa and Olympus, and advancing as far as Rapsani, and establishing there their head-quarters, will probably enable their securing command of the defile of the Vale of Tempé. Yesterday, after dark, numerous signal fires of the insurgents on the northern heights were visible from the town of Larissa.

The inhabitants of Déréli and Babaert, the entrance to Tempé from this plain, who are nearly all Turks, came two days ago to apply to the authorities for troops for their protection, and a detachment of Zeibeck irregulars has been sent thither. A battalion of the regular infantry had previously been dispatched to Elassona, and yesterday a regiment of cavalry marched for Pharsala, but the movement which was said to have been intended of the force which is now in camp here to Domoko has not taken place.

Fighting has continued going on about Armyro, apparently always with disadvantage to the Turks. The insurgents have diverted the water-courses which supplied all the mill-streams, and at present no means remain of grinding corn but by hand. Communication from that town with Volo has been intercepted by land, and the Mudir of the district, recently summoned to Larissa, on his way thither, could only get to Volo by boat. The Gheglu irregulars which were employed at Armyro have all been withdrawn and are now stationed at Velestino.

The latest accounts from Volo state that the military authorities are making preparation for further early operations against the insurgents on Mount Pelion, and that these can be seen from the town on the hills entrenching themselves, fortifying their positions, and taking every precaution to repel any attack.

The "Bisson," French corvette, returned from Salonica to Volo the 2nd instant, and another Italian ship-of-war has joined the "Terribile" there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SUTER.

No. 584.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 20. Political.)

Corfu, March 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the information, gleaned since the date of my last report, on passing events in this quarter.

2. The report from Santi Quaranta is based on the statements of two travellers from Janina by the post-road which traverses the valley of Delvino, the scene of the recent conflict, and professes to be a narration of what they themselves saw as regards the burnt villages along, or within sight of their route, and of what they gathered from natives respecting the acts of plunder committed by the Bashi-Bazouks. The facts are certainly quite in character with the too notorious habits of those gentry, nor is the part attributed to the women of Liapuria in any way incredible, although it is somewhat difficult to conceive that women should have travelled at such an inclement season some fifty or sixty miles from the banks of the Voinsa, beyond Argirocastro, even for the sake of plunder.

My immediate informant formerly served under me in Cephalonia, and is now a commercial agent, established at Santi Quaranta; and, although it is not likely he would have ventured to tell me anything he did not believe himself, knowing, as I do, the agencies at work there to mislead public opinion, there is considerable room for suspecting that he may have been imposed upon, and I must therefore offer his evidence with all due reserve.

3. The substance of the report from Santa Maura is amply confirmed by information derived from a different, and a highly respectable source.

4. So averse are the Cephaloniots of all classes to the present movement, that, in order to prevent desertion, Vice-Consul Saunders writes to me, the men of the reserve force required to have a guard of regulars placed over them till they could be put on board the Greek steamer for Patras.

5. Mr. Stevens' report from Zante, of which I inclose a copy, speaks volumes for the infatuated spirit by which the Greek Government is at present actuated, and which, if

persisted in, must shortly render the name of Greek a scandal and a by-word among civilized nations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 584.

Report.

(Translation from the Italian.)

THE son of Mehemet Abassi, who had been made prisoner by the insurgents, and afterwards let go by them, no sooner felt himself at liberty, than with his own hand he killed eighteen Christians in the village of Jori, and that after the villagers had received him with acclamations of welcome. Others—Turks—his followers, killed seven Christians more.

From the same relators it is gathered that the following villages were burnt:—Finiki, Krania, Karalimbey, Sopichi, Achagiagà, Kaliò, Gréva, Germa, and others besides; that all the cattle of the said villages, and all the houses contained, viz., flour, grain, &c., were carried off.

Among those who took part in these acts of spoliation were Turkish women from Lazzarati and from the villages of Lapurià, who came provided with sacks.

The flocks forcibly carried off from Nivizza and Valachi and Diceliamili are calculated at 30,000 head sheep and goats; of horned cattle, 6,000.

The Government either regarded this wholesale spoliation with indifference, or were powerless to prevent it, seeing that the regular soldiery took part with the plunderers.

Santi Quaranta, Epirus, March 18, 1878.

Inclosure 2 in No. 584.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Sir, *Santa Maura, March* 16, 1878.

IT is now confirmed from all quarters that all the bands which had crossed the Turco-Acarnanian frontier have withdrawn into Greece.

Latest advices from that quarter state that in consequence of outrages committed this week by the irregulars (Bashi-Bazouks), who burnt the village of Kosciana, in the district of Radovisi, ninety families had, up to Thursday last, quitted that district and taken refuge in Greece. The Bashi-Bazouks, in pursuing the refugees, killed two children.

It appears that the committees are again meditating another expedition, further supplies of chassepôts and cartridges having been telegraphed for from Carvassarà on Thursday last.

The agitators are confident that their exertions to induce the inhabitants to rise will ultimately succeed, as soon as the women and children are safe in Greek territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS ONOFRIO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 584.

Vice-Consul Stevens to Consul Sir C. Sebright.

Zante, March 16, 1878.

LOMBARDO arrived here last Monday from Athens, and on Wednesday left by the Austrian for Italy. His friends say that he has been entrusted by the King with a secret mission to the Italian Government; his opponents, that he is going to Naples on a visit to his sister who lives there.

The same Greek steamer that brought Lombardo also brought 150 rifles and an equal number of Albanian capottes, sandals, leggings, cartridge pouches, &c., for a corps of volunteers which is in course of being formed here to proceed either to

Thessaly or Albania. These articles have been consigned for delivery to a Mr. Crendiropulo, who is agent of the National Bank, and who is said to have received orders to advance the volunteers 30,000 drachmas. It is generally admitted that the outlay comes from the coffers of the Greek Government.

The present, or rather the ostensible, leader of the Zante volunteers is a peasant named Nóniga, who, a year ago, was released after several years' imprisonment for murder; his followers are all, more or less, of the same stamp. A gentleman of respectability this morning remarked, in my presence, that it would be well for Zante if these worthies never returned to the island.

(Signed) RD. C. M. STEVENS.

No. 585.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* , 1878.
(Private and Confidential.)

TO our great and anything but pleasant surprise we heard yesterday from Baron Langenau that General Ignatieff was coming here on a special mission, and that he had already left, without his mission having previously been communicated to us. Langenau does not know what he brings. Whatever it may be, we shall only listen to him, but on no account give up any single one of the European interests. As, however, I foresee that in London our old friend the separate agreement between us and Russia will again be talked about and fenced, I must ask your Excellency to put the matter before Lord Derby in its true light. You can add that I see therein only a fresh inducement for England to go to the Congress. I have already expressed my opinion in detail on that subject to Sir H. Elliot, before I could possibly know anything about the Ignatieff mission. My opinion is, that England, instead of putting any further questions to Russia, ought to declare that she considers herself entitled to discuss at the Congress all the points of the Treaty of Peace which in any way alter the *status quo* as defined by European treaty law, and that she, England, goes to the Congress for this purpose only, without having any regard to the agreement or disagreement thereto of any other Power. This is also our standpoint.

To-day I lay more stress than ever on the meeting of the Congress. Russia having already agreed to it, England alone would compromise its meeting. In that case I am afraid that those in this country who advocate a direct and separate understanding with Russia would bring public opinion more and more round to their view.

No. 586.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 26.)

THE Secretary of the Admiralty presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to inclose copy of a telegram received from Captain Hunt Grubbe, of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation," which ship has been sent to assist fugitives near Mount Olympus.

Admiralty, March 25, 1878.

Inclosure in No. 586.

Captain Hunt Grubbe to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) "*Devastation*," *Salonica, March* 25, 1878, 5·35 P.M.

HAVE examined coast near Olympus. No signs of fugitives. Am informed they have taken refuge in monasteries inland.

No. 587.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, March* 26, 1878.

THERE is a report that a very large force is to be concentrated at Kischineff under the Czarewitch, but I cannot vouch for the authenticity of rumour.

No. 588.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26, 4 P.M.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 26, 1878, 1·30 P.M.

COUNT CORTI arrived in Rome yesterday, and has accepted the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

No. 589.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 380.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, March* 26, 1878, 1·50 P.M.

I AM informed upon apparently trustworthy authority that typhus is increasing among the Russians at Adrianople; probable number of deaths fifty per day. Typhus and typhoid largely prevail at Dédéagatch, Enos, and Sharkeui.

No. 590.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 83.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 26, 1878, 4·30 P.M.

UNDER-SECRETARY of State for Foreign Affairs tells me that the Austrian Government were only informed yesterday morning of General Ignatieff's journey to Vienna, and that they have no knowledge of what his object is in coming.

No. 591.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 26, 1878, 5·15 P.M.

FOLLOWING received from Mr. Monson:—

Prince Ghika and M. Stourtza start to-night for Bucharest. They declare themselves quite satisfied with the result of their interviews with the Hungarian Ministers ? and the principal Members of Parliament, and are convinced that in the event of war between England and Russia, it would be impossible to keep Hungary from taking part in it.

They especially request me to tell your Excellency that they have this morning received official intelligence from Bucharest, that Russia intends at once to take possession of Moldavian Bessarabia, and to expel Prince Charles's officials from that province.

No. 592.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 26.)

(Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March* 26, 1878, 4·45 P.M.

I HAVE seen Count Corti to-day, but our conversation was only informal. I am to see him the day after to-morrow respecting the understanding in regard to Mediter-

rancan and Black Sea interests. He told me that he had come to Rome intending to refuse the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, but the King had overruled him.

He said that he believed Russia did not wish for the Congress, and that General Ignatieff had never intended the Treaty to be submitted to other Powers.

No. 593.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

Foreign Office, March 26, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 327 of the 25th, the cession of Bayazid is included in the Treaty communicated to Her Majesty's Government by Count Schouvaloff.

No. 594.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 211. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, March 26, 1878.

Sir,

I INCLOSE copy of a telegram from Count Andrassy,[2] stating his objections to supporting the policy of Her Majesty's Government respecting the conditions of joining in the Congress, which was communicated to me yesterday, very confidentially, by Count Beust.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 595.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 34. Political.)

Trebizond, March 15, 1878.

My Lord,

THE only information which I have been able to obtain on the state of affairs at Batoum is from two respectable Greeks who arrived yesterday from that place.

The Turks are repairing the old fortifications of the Castle of Gunia, south of the mouth of the Tsuruksoo, and are said to have the intention to establish there an intrenched camp; but there are no signs of an immediate evacuation of Batoum.

Not a single gun has been removed from its place, and the Turks still hold all their positions between the Kintridj River and that town.

My informants went over the ground on Wednesday last, and, while there, sixteen large country boats, loaded with provisions and munitions, were towed by a Turkish vessel of war from Batoum to the camp at Sonihijir.

The Turkish forces are reckoned to be about 15,000 regulars, and as many irregulars, well armed, but in poor health. The Russian forces, which were of about 15,000 regulars and irregulars, have been lately weakened by 6,000 men, who have returned to the Caucasus.

A week ago several Russian officers came in the Turkish camp, asking for the surrender of Batoum, and mentioning Atina (a place half-way between that town and Trebizonde) as the line of demarkation of the new frontier. Dervish Pasha is said to have answered that he had no orders to that effect.

Whatever the instructions to the Commander-in-chief may be, it seems that the populations of the Lazistan (who have heard, only a few days ago, that their country is to be given over to Russia) cannot admit that a similar idea is entertained.

Tsereteli Ali Pasha, who was here in a kind of exile, has returned to Batoum last week with the secret mission, it is rumoured, of encouraging his countrymen to resist the Russians taking possession of their country. However, he had been removed from Batoum under suspicion of being too favourable to Russia.

The only vessels of war now at Batoum are two ironclad corvettes. The "Avni Illah," and another of the same type, perhaps the "Muini Tafer," but the name of which is not known to my informants.

[2] No. 585.

The lighthouse agent at Batoum was directed a week ago, by Dervish Pasha, to take down the light for the purpose of removing it to another spot, as it was an obstruction in its present position inside the main battery. The agent has applied to the Direction at Constantinople for instructions.

1,500 sick and wounded have been sent here from Batoum within the last ten days, and as many more are in the hospitals in that place.

The impression of my informants is that there is an apprehension that the 15,000 volunteers, who are now under arms, would fight against the Russians if they came to Batoum, and that the Turkish authorities are trying to disarm them in a quiet way, and send them back to their houses before the place is given up. The day of their departure from Batoum, Thursday last, my informants saw Turkish soldiers carrying to the depôts 400 or 500 rifles, which had evidently been taken back from the volunteers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 596.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Salonica, March 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 17th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the departure of the regular Ottoman troops for Mount Olympus, their number, and the events which occurred at Litochoro and Kitros, near Caterina, where the troops have placed their head-quarters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD. B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 596.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, March 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the news of the taking of the small fortress of Platamona by Doumbiotti, the Chief of the insurgents in Mount Olympus, has been confirmed. This Platamona (the ancient Heraclion) had only three cannons and 10 soldiers in garrison.

As soon as the Greeks under Doumbiotti had landed and gone to Litochoro, near Caterina, two small bands of robbers, about thirty men in all, united together under a Chief, Evanghelee, and augmented by other insurgents, proceeded to the village of Colondro, seat of the Bishop of Kitros, and compelled all the villagers in their neighbourhood to bring their families to Colondro, and the bishop to give them, and the standard of the revolution, his benediction.

Against these insurgents and brigands the Governor-General of Salonica sent

Mustahfiz (by sea)	450
Régulars, under Mustafa Aga, and 2 cannon (by sea)	600
" " Feteem Bey, and 3 cannon (by land)	900
" " Leeva Ibrahim Pasha (by sea)	300
" " the Commander-in-chief Assaf Pasha (by sea)	600
Total	2,850

The brigands and volunteers, finding themselves only 150, set off with the women and children to Aghios-Pantas in the mountains, setting fire and burning down the bishop's premises and the church adjoining.

Assaf Pasha, leaving a garrison of 1,000 soldiers at Colondro, went with Feteem Bey and three cannons to Kitros, and from thence to Caterina, which has been made the head-quarters of the troops.

Nothing has been heard of the 600 (or more) volunteers who landed at St. Theodoros; it is said they are in parts of the mountains inaccessible to regular troops.

Assaf Pasha, on arriving at Caterina, was presented with petitions from the Mahommedan and Christian populations, seeking redress and protection from the Circassians and Ghegha Albanians, who have, on the pretext of suppressing the insurrection, but without any authority, pillaged and killed several persons, saying that if prompt measures be not taken to repress them, the whole country will be obliged to take up arms and defend themselves.

They attacked and plundered the estate of M. Bizzo, Dragoman of this Consulate, at Kitros, and at Ajannides, carried off 100 horses and mules, and burnt eighty huts belonging to his Wallachian shepherds. The post leaving in an hour prevents my sending your Excellency details of these excesses.

This was done just before Assaf Pasha arrived at the estate, where he slept one night, and he saw and heard the *viva voce* complaints of the peasants, whom he found loyal to the Government, in spite of the incitement and orders of the Bishop of Kitros.

From Mr. Suter, under date the 14th instant, I learn that the insurrectionary movement continues to increase, and that the numbers of wounded Turkish soldiers brought into Larissa proves that serious fighting has taken place.

Great complaints are made against the irregular troops, but not the regulars, and I shall have the honour of sending the particulars by next post.

The Italian squadron, with one Admiral on board the "Venezia," left on Friday the 15th instant. We have here the Italian "Roma," with Rear-Admiral Del Santo, the Austrian "Frunsberg," and the French "Couronne."

The town of Litochoro has been seen burning from Salonica; particulars not yet received.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 597.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 27.)

(No. 14. Political.)

Salonica, March 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of yesterday's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, containing two annexes, chiefly referring to the undisciplined and lawless conduct of the irregular troops in Thessaly and in Mount Olympus.

And also a copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the desire evinced by the whole of the Mohammedan population of Drama to become British subjects and not Russian and Bulgarian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 597.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, March 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of the document I received from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, which the want of time prevented my sending to your Excellency by yesterday's post, in my preceding despatch, being the translation of a letter from a person at Livadia to him on the conduct of the irregular soldiery.

Also a copy of an extract from my Dragoman, Mr. Bizzo's, report to me of the 16th instant, relating the excesses committed by the Circassians in his property at Kitros, which came under his own eyes, and those of Assaf Pasha, who went there with the troops to act against the insurgents on Mount Olympus.

I have learnt that the town of Litochoro was attacked and burnt by the troops on the 15th instant; 20 to 30 corpses were found, 50 percussion, old-fashioned guns, 4 breech-loaders, 1 flag, and 4 cases of cartridges taken.

Having learnt that 500 Circassian Bashi-Bazouks have been sent to Catterina, and that they are directed to act against a monastery where the women and children of the insurgent villages have taken refuge, I signified to the Governor-General that he would do well to telegraph immediately to Assaf Pasha that he must prevent any massacres.

His Excellency replied that he had that moment done so, at the request of the Italian and Austrian Consuls, who also had heard this report. But the circumstance of sending Bashi-Bazouks there at all, when such a large force of regulars was already in the field, speaks very ominously against the intentions of the authorities here, and leads to the fear that the scenes of last year in Bulgaria will be enacted over again.

The mortality among the soldiers from typhus is very great. My colleagues and I are devising means of inducing the authorities, both civil and military, to take precautionary measures for the health of the city, by sending the patients out of town, and placing them under tents before the hot weather begins.

Three more medical men have arrived—Drs. Clemont and Rowe for the Stafford House, and Dr. Jolly for the Red Cross Society.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 597.

Translation from the Greek of a Letter received by Vice-Consul Suter at Larissa from a person at Livadia, dated the 17th February, 1878.

Honorable Monsieur,

Livadie, le 17 Février, 1878.

APRES la garantie officielle déclarée récemment par les Puissances Européennes pour la sûreté des Chrétiens de l'Empire Ottoman, quelques-uns croyaient que les ermutés et les excès de l'élément souverain auraient été déjà disparues—certes, à l'insu de leur caractère et qualité. Mais aussitôt que cette garantie a été fournie toutes sortes des impiétés ont été commises, c'est-à-dire, des pillages, des sacriléges et des meurtres.

Les Ghegas et les Albanais qui font la ronde sur l'Olympe en poursuite de brigandage ravissent, battent, et tuent sans pitié. Il y a huit jours 100 Ghegas allèrent au village de Milièse, et après l'avoir pillé, en chargèrent les butins sur des chevaux faisant partie de la proie. Les villageois ainsi dépouillés, avec prières demandaient leur propriété, mais les ravisseurs, nonobstant, les battaient et les fusillaient, mais heureusement personne n'y fut tué.

Trois Ghegas allèrent au troupeau d'un certain Yegou Baboura, sous prétexte qu'ils avaient besoin des chevaux au corvée; ils frappèrent le pauvre Chrétien pour le contraindre de leur payer une récompense suffisante à sa délivrance; et le pauvre homme n'ayant pas assez d'argent pour satisfaire leur avidité, il fut gravement blessé.

Le docteur d'Ellassona, se rendant voir le blessé, assura le Caïmacam de cette ville qu'il serait mort dans peu. Le Caïmacam s'apercevant que le blessé aurait relevé les meurtriers, ne remplit pas son devoir.

Deux jours après ce crime, un autre Ghega, ne pouvant pas faire une provision gratuite d'une valeur de 15 ou 20 piastres chez un épicier d'Ellassona, l'attaqua avec son épée, mais l'épicier étant robuste, arracha l'épée de ses mains. Deux autres Ghegas voyant leur camarade désarmé, prirent en se précipitant, l'épée des mains de l'épicier, et le remirent au furieux Ghega, en lui disant, "Si tu ne tue pas un Ghiaour tu ne serais pas un Ghega." Aussitôt dit, il se précipite vers le pauvre Chrétien, et le blessa mortellement.

Hier quatre Ghegas, avec leur chef, en poursuite de brigandage, saisirent dans la forêt C. Cozaniotino, à deux heures de distance de Livadia, où il coupait des bois, prenant d'abord les deux mulets, ensuite ils tuèrent notre jeune compatriote par deux coups de fusil; mais ces sanguinaires n'étant pas contents de cela, ils tombèrent furiensement contre le cadavre aux baïonettes. Ce très navrant méfait commis par les farouches Ghegas, nous avons vérifié de nos yeux, au milieu des pleurs, non-seulement des parents, mais de tous nos compatriotes.

L'autre jour deux Albanais, patrouilles des forêts, trouvèrent deux chasseurs et leur prirent les armes, et ceux-ci retournèrent chez eux à Caritza, quatre heures loin de Caterina. Lorsque les premiers sont allés dans ce village les habitants vinrent les rencontrer, pour demander les armes, mais les Albanais en refusèrent brusquement la restitution, mais pourtant les villageois insistèrent à la réclamation des armes; alors les Albanais s'éloignant un peu, firent feu contre les villageois dont un a été tué et un

autre blessé gravement. Lorsque ces braves gardes arrivèrent au village de Saint Demetrius, une heure et demie distant de Livadia, reçurent une lettre d'absolution du capitaine des Ghegas campés là-bas, et dictée suivant la volonté des Albanais auxquels nous donnions hier de l'hospitalité dans la ville, en leur passage à Ellassona, pour les disculper du crime qu'ils ont commis. Le capitaine connaissant intimement le Caïmacam recommanda instamment les Albanais de se rendre à Ellassona, où ils seraient sans doute justifiés; ajoutant l'énonciation habituelle aux Turcs, "que vingt Ghiaours ne valent pas un Musulman."

Tel est, M. le Consul, l'état insupportable vers les Chrétiens dans le district d'Ellassona.

Comme vous êtes le Représentant de la Puissance la plus philanthropique de l'Europe, nous vous prions chaleureusement de recommander au Gouvernement Ottoman ce qu'il est nécessaire à l'assurance de la vie, de l'honneur, et de propriété.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) ATHANASIUS ASTERION,
Docteur en Médecine.

Inclosure 3 in No. 597.

M. Bizzo to Acting Consul Barker.

Salonique, le 16 *Mars*, 1878.

(Extrait.)

A PEINE Assaf Pacha est arrivé à Catterina il a été renseigné par les habitants Chrétiens et Musulmans des méfaits qui sont commis par les Circassiens et par les Guégues, et que si le Gouvernement refuse de punir les coupables, le soulèvement de la population Chrétienne sera général.

En quelques jours, et en présence des autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes, ont été commis les crimes suivants:

1. Le 9 Mars, une centaine de Circassiens sont entrés à Varkos, qui est une heure loin de Catterina, et avec quelques Guégues et autres Musulmans, ont tué un homme avec sa femme et ses trois enfants, dont le plus petit âgé seulement de quelques mois. Ils ont gravement blessé deux personnes et ont tué une autre femme.

Les restants des villageois se sont échappés du village, et alors la bande ennemie a saccagé toutes les maisons, emportant avec eux aussi tout le bétail.

2. Le 10 Mars, les mêmes se sont rendus aux villages de Carliza et Maratria. Les habitants ont immédiatement abandonné leurs foyers et se sont réfugiés sur les montagnes.

Un pauvre villageois a été tué et toute la propriété mobilière du village a été pillée et emportée. Près de Catterina les dits Circassiens et compagnons ont rencontré soixante-dix vaches appartenantes aux Sieurs Poulio Matulu et Liolio, Chrétiens, et ils ont aussi emportés le dit bétail.

Les Circassiens et les Guégues, tant à pied qu'à cheval, se promènent librement dans le district de Catterina et Veria et la fortune, la vie, et les bestiaux des villageois sont exposés et sans protection. Le même jour qu'Assaf Pacha était attendu à Kitros 300 Circassiens armés sont entrés de force dans mes propriétés à Kitros et Ajamides, où ils ont pillé et dérobé mes villageois, ils ont incendié 80 cabanes appartenants aux bergers et ils ont aussi enlevé 109 chevaux et mulets. Cette scène a été constatée par un officier Ottoman qui se rendait à la rencontre d'Assaf Pacha. Le dit Général a promis de faire justice aux villageois, et de faire rendre les animaux qui furent enlevés, et il a pris note de la bonne conduite des fidèles habitants de mes propriétés, qui ont refusé de se joindre à l'armée révolutionnaire, malgré les incitations de l'Evêque de Kitros.

Inclosure 4 in No. 597.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, March 20, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that about a week ago the Mahommedan population of Drama, about 600 persons, waited on Mr. Charnaud, a British subject who has large commercial dealings with that town, and begged him in the name of the population of that Sandjak to go to Constantinople to present to your

Excellency a petition in the sense that they had heard Drama would be included in the Bulgarian Principality, and they want to become British subjects, because they cannot bear the fact of their town and sandjak being placed either under Russians or Bulgarians.

Mr. Charnaud has applied to me to report this to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 598.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 228. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, March* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 221 of the 23rd instant, respecting the proposed Preliminary Conferences, I regret to say that the Minister for Foreign Affairs is still suffering from a severe cold, but M. Bucher has had the goodness to bring me, in reply to my inquiry, a message from Prince Bismarck to the effect that my colleagues had correctly understood him; and that, considering the many and various questions of form which would have to be settled before the real work of the Congress could commence, he held a preliminary discussion of them to be indispensable.

For instance, how could the Congress commence its labours before the Powers had agreed collectively upon the bases each separately had put forward as the *sine qua non* of their appearance in Congress?

The Powers would have to settle who was to be admitted, and who excluded, from their deliberations; and they would also have to consider whether the Turkish Government ought or ought not to communicate the Treaty of San Stefano to the Signatory Powers, as the Russian Government had already done, &c., &c.

As Lord Lyons will soon be in Berlin, he will be best able to communicate your Lordship's views respecting the proposed Preliminary Conference to Prince Bismarck.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 599.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 273.)

My Lord, *Paris, March* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship, that M. Waddington informed me this evening that Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, had called on him at 5 o'clock, and had communicated to him the Treaty of San Stefano, for the information of the French Government.

I have, &c,

(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 600.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 285. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, March* 20, 1878.

IN the very confidential conversations which I have had with M. Waddington, with reference to the meeting of a Congress at Berlin, his Excellency's language, up to the 24th instant, was always hopeful. Whilst freely acknowledging the great irritation felt against England in Russia, he characterized his reports from Berlin as of an optimist nature, and he was clearly of opinion that, since Prince Bismarck had agreed that the Congress should be held at Berlin, his Highness had been sincerely anxious to promote its assembling and its success.

But on the 24th I found a great change in M. Waddington's language. His news from Berlin was less satisfactory; he felt that the hopes of a Congress, at all

events for the moment, were growing fainter, and he even went so far as to say that he feared England might be drifting into a war.

Yesterday evening there was a reception at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and I had a few minutes conversation with his Excellency. He took a very gloomy view of the situation, and represented it as most precarious. He said that it appeared to him that Prince Bismarck was a little ruffled at the prospect of the Congress at Berlin coming to nothing, after his Highness had, perhaps with some hesitation, consented to it, and had exerted himself to bring it about. The consequences, his Excellency thought, might well be that Germany would now hold herself aloof, and await the course of events.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 601.

Count Schouvaloff to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

M. le Comte, *Londres, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Mars*, 1878.

JE me suis empressé de communiquer au Prince Gortchacow la teneur de la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 21 Mars.

Le Prince me répond que le Cabinet Impérial croit devoir s'en tenir à la déclaration qu'il m'a donné l'ordre de faire au Gouvernement de la Reine et qui se trouve consignée dans la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence en date du 19 Mars.

Des interprétations différentes ayant été données à la "liberté d'appréciation et d'action" que la Russie croit devoir se réserver au Congrès, le Cabinet Impérial en précise le sens de la manière suivante:—

Il laisse aux autres Puissances la liberté de soulever au Congrès telles questions qu'elles jugeraient à propos de discuter, et se réserve à lui-même la liberté d'accepter ou non la discussion de ces questions.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 602.

Count Andrassy to Count Beust.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Count Beust, March 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Private and Confidential.) *Vienna, March* 26, 1878.

THE interpretation sure to be put on the Ignatieff mission makes it desirable to notice rumours persistently circulated from St. Petersburgh and from Berlin to the effect that, in consequence of the insuperable difficulties arising out of Hungarian national feeling on the one side and the annexionist wishes of other parts of the Empire, we were prepared to arrive at a compromise with Russia on the basis of a modification of the frontiers of Bulgaria and an abridgement of the period during which the Russian army was to occupy the new Principality.

Your Excellency knows as well as I do the falsehood of the above, or any similar assertion, and I leave it entirely to your discretion to deal with them if occasion should arise.

No. 603.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 84.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 27, 1878.

A RUSSIAN of the name of Shoulalof, stated to be used as a spy by the Russian Government, left Vienna this morning for Brindisi and Malta.

If he can do nothing at Malta he is to remain in the south of Italy and Greece.

No. 604.

The Earl of Derby to Lord A. Loftus.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 27, 1878, 3·50 P.M.

RUSSIAN answer received this morning says they adhere to declaration in Count Schouvaloff's letter of 19th instant, and defines term "liberty of appreciation and action" as follows:—

"Russia leaves to other Powers liberty to raise in Congress such questions as they think should be discussed, and reserves to herself the liberty of accepting or not the discussion of those questions."

No. 605.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 27, 1878, 6·30 P.M.

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy for his answer to the queries contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 25th.

He will not absolutely object to the creation of a Bulgarian Principality, but inclines to the opinion that it would be less likely to be under Russian influence if rendered entirely independent instead of tributary to the Porte, which would have no benefit from that position. A pecuniary equivalent for the tribute could be found.

With regard to boundaries of Bulgaria, he considers that for the safety of Constantinople it should not be allowed to extend to the south of the Balkans in its eastern half and that for the maintenance of the communications with Bosnia, Albania, and other provinces, as well as in the interest of Austria, the western half must also be very greatly diminished.

I said I did not think Her Majesty's Government would advocate the exclusion from the Principality of the district round Tatar Bazardjik, where the worst outrages occurred at the time of the insurrection.

He said he had no objection to its being included, and would himself consent to the boundary extending rather to the west of that district, but it was essential to prevent Bulgaria from approaching Salonica and from cutting off the communication with the western provinces.

As regards a Russian occupation, he could not consent to it for above six months.

European delegates must at once assist in the organization of the administration, instead of this being left for a year to a Russian Commission as proposed, and within six months they would be able to organize a militia and police, which could maintain order.

Count Andrassy's tone and language were very much more satisfactory to-day than the last time I saw him.

No. 606.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 333.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March* 27, 1878, 1·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, in the copy of the Treaty possessed by the Porte Bayazid is ceded to Russia, but the Emperor agreed with Raouf Pasha that it should continue with the adjoining district in the possession of Turkey.

No. 607.

*The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.**

(No. 407.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, for your information, a copy of a note which I have this day received from the Russian Ambassador at this Court,† upon the subject of the conditions upon which Her Majesty's Government are prepared to take part in the Congress.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 608.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 409.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

MR. CONSUL READE has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch No. 16 to your Excellency, in which he reports the steps which he has taken with a view to recover several Christian girls who had been kidnapped by Circassians; and I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Reade my approval of his proceedings.

Your Excellency will not fail to bring this matter to the notice of the Porte, and to support the representations which Mr. Reade has already made to the local authorities in the Vilayet of the Danube.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 609.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 224. Confidential.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I INCLOSE herewith copy of a telegram from Count Andrassy,‡ which was communicated to me yesterday, privately and very confidentially, by Count Beust, respecting the mission of General Ignatieff, and the importance still attached by Austria to the meeting of the Congress.

I inclose, further, a copy of a second telegram communicated by Count Beust this morning,§ also in a private and confidential manner, in which a denial is given to the rumours that Austria is prepared to come to a compromise with Russia on the basis of a modification of the proposed frontier of Bulgaria and an abridgement of the period of the Russian occupation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 610.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 54.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

M. GENNADIUS called upon me on the 18th instant and communicated a despatch from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which he expressed a wish that I would amend a passage in a speech delivered by me, in the House of Lords, on the 25th ultimo, with regard to the entry of the Greek army into Thessaly.

M. Delyanni desires it to be made clear that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Athens took the initiative in urging upon the Greek Government the complications likely to ensue from that measure; and that, in giving the order to stop the march of the troops, the Greek Government had declared that they would also follow the advice of the Representatives by recalling their troops if the Great Powers would

* Identic despatches to other Embassies.
† No. 601.
‡ No. 585.
§ No. 602.

guarantee the security of the inhabitants of the Greek provinces of Turkey and the protection of their rights.

I told M. Gennadius that it would be useless for me to attempt to make additions or corrections in a speech delivered three weeks ago, but that the despatch should be included in the next set of correspondence published on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 611.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 55.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs,* which was communicated to me on the 20th instant by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country, stating that thirty-five convicts have recently been released from the prisons at Larissa, with the object of sending them into Greece; and I have to inform you that the substance of this complaint has been telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 612.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 56.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 150 of the 14th instant, reporting that in the course of conversation with M. Delyanni, you had recommended that the Greek Government should take steps to prevent the departure of irregular bands for Turkish territory; and I have to state to you that the advice which you tendered to his Excellency on the occasion in question is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 613.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 57.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I APPROVE the language which, as reported in your despatch No. 156 of the 12th March, you held to M. Delyanni on the 9th instant, suggesting that the Greek Government should endeavour to prevail upon the various Committees in Greece to discontinue the enlistment of armed bands for the purpose of encouraging insurrection in Turkish territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 614.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 58.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, March 27, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 152 of the 10th instant, reporting what passed at a recent interview between yourself and M. Delyanni, when the latter suggested that a band of insurgents at Santi Quaranta should be embarked on board

* Inclosure in No. 468.

Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" and removed to Corfu; and I have to convey to you my approval of your language, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 615.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 162. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 19, 1878.

THE Bishop of Thebes, David, left Athens two or three days ago for Constantinople, and it having been reported that he had been sent there at the instigation of Russia on a mission to try and induce the Patriarch of the Greek Church to come to terms with the Bulgarian Exarchate, I am informed that a member of the late Government questioned M. Delyanni, who is Minister for Public Worship as well as for Foreign Affairs, as to the truth of the report, and that M. Delyanni replied most positively that there was no truth in it, and that the Government was incapable of such an unpatriotic act. He did not, however, state the object of Bishop David's Mission.

I am informed that the Russian Government is endeavouring to bring about an understanding between the Greek Patriarch and the Bulgarian Church, and that the Russian Minister at this Court, in conversing lately with a Greek gentleman upon this subject, stated that Russia would succeed in her wish, as the Porte could influence the Patriarch, and the Russian Government the Porte. This matter is looked upon by Greeks as most serious, for they say that if the Patriarch yields to the wishes of Russia, the Bulgarian Church will, by virtue of a Firman of 1871, acquire ecclesiastical authority in Provinces in Turkey far beyond whatever limits may be assigned to the Province of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 616.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 159 of the 14th instant, in which I stated to your Lordship that I had informed the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs that a Turkish squadron had received orders to proceed to Greek waters, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Delyanni told me the day before yesterday that he had instructed M. Gennadius, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London, to request your Lordship to use your influence with the Porte to avert the adoption of such a measure. I remarked to M. Delyanni that it appeared to me that the Greek Government could itself ward off this measure which appeared to be contemplated by the Porte, by preventing the continued enrolment and departure of volunteers for the purpose of aiding insurrections in Turkey. M. Delyanni replied that it was a question most difficult to deal with, owing to the position of the insurgents and to the state of public opinion in Greece, and M. Coumoundouros, whom I saw yesterday, expressed himself in the same sense.

I suggested to M. Delyanni and to M. Coumoundouros the idea of an armistice or truce being arrived at between the insurgents and the Turkish authorities, such as appeared to have been agreed upon in Crete, and they seemed to think this might be effected, though not through the intervention of the Greek Government, but perhaps through that of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

With regard to the difficulties which this question appears to involve, as far as I am able to judge there is, apart from a strong desire to liberate the Greeks in Turkey from Ottoman rule and to bring them under Greek rule, a feeling in Greece that Hellenic interests not having been taken into consideration at the Conference held at Constantinople, owing, it is stated, to there having been no Hellenic question before Europe, it is now thought necessary that Epirus, Thessaly, and Macedonia should be actually in a state of insurrection at the time of the meeting of the Congress, as otherwise Hellenic interests incur the risk of being again neglected. M. Tricoupi, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 328 of the 2nd December, 1877, expressed to me a very similar fear with regard to Crete. There is, moreover, a feeling that if the volunteers who have gone to Turkey are recalled, those persons who have risen in insurrection, and whose position is now compromised, will be left entirely unprotected, at the mercy of the Turks, and massacred.

The insurrection in Macedonia is stated here to be in great measure intended as a protest on the part of the population of that province against its being included in Bulgaria, and I have been informed that letters have been received here from persons in Macedonia, stating that they would rather remain under Turkish rule than fall under the yoke of the Slavs.

In endeavouring to discourage the promotion on the part of this country of insurrection in Turkey I hold language here to the following effect: that the "Hellenic question" may be said to exist; that the interests of the Hellenic race are now sure to be taken into consideration; that there is, therefore, no longer any necessity for calling attention to it by means of insurrections, which cause much loss of life, suffering, and destruction of property; and that the insurgents should endeavour to bring about a truce; that the bands which leave Greece not being able to release the Christians effectually from Ottoman rule, their operations should be discontinued, as, besides endangering life and property in Turkey, they are compromising the position of the Kingdom of Greece.

With reference to the question of a truce, besides speaking, as I have stated, to members of the Government with regard to it, I have the honour to report that I have spoken to persons connected with the insurrectionary committees, and that they appear to think that a truce might be agreed upon if some distinct assurance could be given that the claims of the populations in whom Greece takes an interest will not be neglected.

I have informed them that your Lordship would endeavour to obtain a fair hearing for the interests of the Greek populations of the Turkish provinces, and that you wish to obtain a solution of the Eastern question in an European and not in an exclusively Russian sense, and that it is your desire to maintain an equal balance between the different races and the different creeds in the Turkish Empire in Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 617.

Mr. Wyndham to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 165.)
My Lord, *Athens, March* 21, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram to me of the 16th instant, I have the honour to report that I lost no time in informing Her Majesty's Consul at Corfu that the Porte saw no objection to Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" removing fugitive women and children from the Albanian coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 618.

Mr. Scott to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 28.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Darmstädt, March* 25, 1878.

THE accuracy of the rumour circulated by the Austrian press that Prince Alexander of Hesse's visit to Vienna, and his stay in that capital, are connected with the candidature of one of His Highness's sons for the contemplated Bulgarian Principality, is persistently denied by persons here who have the best means of information as to Prince Alexander's proceedings.

Prince Alexander of Battenberg, His Highness's second son, has, I learn, received

orders from the Emperor of Germany to return to Berlin viâ St. Petersburgh, and is to leave San Stefano to-day for the Russian capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 619.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 27, 1878.*

GENERAL IGNATIEFF arrived here yesterday evening.

Prince Gortchakow told Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that it had been decided to send General Ignatieff to give explanations about the Treaty of Peace of which he was the author; and Count Andrassy tells me that the Emperor of Russia's letter to the Emperor of Austria contained little more than a statement to that effect.

General Ignatieff said to Count Andrassy to-day that care had been taken to put nothing into the Treaty that could injuriously affect Austrian interests; and he expressed much surprise when the Count objected to the extension proposed to be given to Bulgaria, saying that England entirely approved of this arrangement, and that the new Principality would not form the great State to which Austria had announced her objections.

Count Andrassy said that it might not be a large State compared to Russia, but was very large according to his views.

This first conversation appears to have been short, and of a very general character.

No. 620.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 87.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 27, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY to-day again expressed his earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would not insist on obtaining from Russia any further declaration about the questions to be discussed in the Congress.

He entirely agrees with Her Majesty's Government as to the necessity of examining every Article of the new Treaty to ascertain whether it affects the old ones, and he cannot doubt that every other Government must accept such a self-evident proposition.

If Russia was to refuse to accept such an examination, she would, he says, put herself in the wrong towards neutral Powers, and especially towards Austria, which invited the Congress for the very purpose of the examination in question, and our two Governments, instead of being separated as they now seem likely to be, would remain in an advantageous position.

No. 621.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 28, 1878, 12·5 P.M.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, in speaking of the necessity of not permitting a Russian occupation of Bulgaria for more than six months, said that it might be necessary to have some guarantee for the evacuation at the end of that period, and he intimated that such a guarantee might be found by maintaining Her Majesty's fleet at Constantinople, and by the occupation by an Austrian force not only of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but perhaps of a part of northern Albania, as a security for the communication with Salonica.

No. 622.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 334. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 28, 1878.*

SULTAN wishes to know whether Her Majesty's Government would be willing to inform the Porte officially that they would be prepared to remove Her Majesty's ships, or some of them, from their present position in the Sea of Marmora, but not from Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, if the Russian troops were first removed from positions they occupy in violation of the armistice in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.

If Her Majesty's Government would make such an official communication, His Majesty thinks that he could address a demand founded upon it to the Russians to withdraw.

His Majesty says that, as long as Russians are virtually masters of his capital, he can have no freedom of action, but is entirely at their mercy.

No. 623.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28.)

(No. 335. Most Confidential. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, March 28, 1878.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS endeavoured to exact promise from the Sultan that he would enter into an alliance with Russia, but His Majesty absolutely refused to take any engagement on the subject. On being pressed to say what he should do in the event of war between Russia and England, or if England attempted to occupy Bosphorus, he answered that he would remain neutral, but that he could not bind himself to any particular course in the future. Grand Duke told Sultan that as Austria had now been completely detached from England, England could do nothing without ally; but he seems to have given Sultan impression that he felt much alarm at the prospect of war with her. Sultan does not appear pleased with manner of Grand Duke towards him, which His Majesty thought overbearing and threatening. Pray keep this communication as secret as possible.

No. 624.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 28, 5·45 P.M.)

(No. 17. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, March 28, 1878, 2·15 P.M.*

I HAVE spoken to Count Corti as to the proposed understanding between England and Italy for the future security of their communications and commercial and political interests in the Mediterranean, the Straits, and Black Sea, and I have left in his hands a Memorandum, marked Most Confidential, in the terms of your Lordship's instructions. He will consult his colleagues and give me an answer to-morrow. In the mean time, he admits that the interests of Italy are identical with those of England, that consequently the Italian Government will always be ready to take into consideration any proposal which may be made by Her Majesty's Government, and to act with them as far as possible, but he thinks the Italian Government will not be disposed to bind themselves by any engagement which may perhaps lead them into war.

I pointed out that such would not be necessarily the consequence of the understanding between the two Governments; that, if Italy agreed to it, Austria, France, and Greece would be invited to join, and that we counted much on the moral effect which such a union would produce. I further said he should remember that Italy being now a Great Power must accept duties and responsibilities attaching to that position, and used other arguments in same sense.

Count Corti said he was convinced Austria would be gained over by General Ignatieff.

This, I replied, was an additional reason for Italy joining England.

In the event of Italian Government being willing, which I am not sanguine of, to agree to such a Memorandum, am I authorized to sign it?

Count Corti has promised not to mention my communication to any other Government.

No. 625.

The Earl of Derby to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 80 you should undeceive Count Andrassy as to the approval of the new Bulgaria attributed to England by General Ignatieff.

No. 626.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1878, 6 P.M.

CAPTAIN of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation" has telegraphed to Admiralty that he has examined coast near Olympus, but found no signs of fugitives who were said to have taken refuge in monasteries inland.

No. 627.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1878.

YOU may authorize Fawcett to arrange claim against Commander of "Torch" for 125*l.*

No. 628.

Telegram to Her Majesty's Representatives abroad.

Foreign Office, March 28, 1878.

LORD DERBY announced in the House of Lords to-day that he had resigned office. He stated that he had done so on account of decisions arrived at in the Cabinet, which he did not at present think it right to mention.

He specially said that it was not in connection with the policy pursued with regard to the Congress, in which he fully concurred.

Lord Beaconsfield said that it had been decided to call out the reserves.

No. 629.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 417.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1878

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 339 of the 12th instant, forwarding a pamphlet containing Synvet's ethnographical map of Turkey in Europe, and a statistical account of the Greek population of the Ottoman Empire, which has been placed in your hands by two Greek gentlemen, who called upon you on behalf of their countrymen in Thrace to request you to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the injustice of the Greek population of that province being placed under the rule of the Bulgarians; and I have to request you to thank those gentlemen for their communication, and to state to them that their representations will be duly considered by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 630.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 64.) *Foreign Office, March* 28, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, a copy of a telegram which has been communicated to me by the Admiralty from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation," relative to his visit to the coast of Thessaly in search of fugitives.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 631.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 32. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, March* 16, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish transport "Babel" landed in Suda Bay yesterday five battalions of regular troops, both Nizam and Redif, coming from Varna. Their aggregate number is 2,700 men. The total number of regulars now in Crete I believe to be about 17,000.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 632.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 353.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1878.

THE Porte complains very bitterly of the conduct of the Italian and Austrian Consuls and Consular Agents in Epirus and Thessaly in thwarting military operations and encouraging the insurgents. Representations on the subject have been addressed to Count Zichy, who has promised to make inquiries and to take measures on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 633.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 354. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 16, 1878.

THE Sultan sent to ask me to go to him this morning. When I arrived at the Palace, His Majesty was in Council with his Ministers. He came out shortly afterwards, and told me that he had been detained by a discussion respecting the demand of the Grand Duke Nicholas to be allowed to occupy Buyukdéré, for the purpose of embarking that part of his army which was to be sent back to Russia. His Majesty said that some of his Ministers were disposed to grant the Grand Duke's request, as they feared to irritate him by refusing it. But he had resolutely opposed any concession on this point, and finally his Ministers had unanimously agreed with him. His Majesty then showed me the answer which it had been decided to send to-morrow to the Grand Duke, and to which were affixed the seals of the Ministers. It stated, generally, as far as I could gather, that it was not necessary that the Russian forces should occupy Buyukdéré in order to embark, as there were several ports on the Sea of Marmora and on the Black Sea, in the actual possession of Russia, at which this could be done under the terms of the Preliminaries of Peace, and that the Turkish Government were ready to give every help and facility in their power for the operation by placing at the disposal of the Grand Duke, steam ships, launches, and flat boats,

* Inclosure in No. 556.

Such being the case, and there being many reasons why it was not desirable that a Russian force should march round Constantinople, and occupy the Bosphorus, it was hoped that the Grand Duke would not persist in his demand.

The Sultan said that he had directed that the answer should be sent to the Grand Duke late to-morrow afternoon, as he expected that by that time the ratification of the Preliminaries of Peace would have been exchanged at St. Petersburgh, and that the Russians would then no longer have an excuse to pick a quarrel with him. His Majesty observed that he could not believe that Russia would attempt to seize by force the entrance of the Bosphorus, and thus to commit an act of war in the face of Europe, for which there would be absolutely no justification. He was surprised, His Majesty added, that some of his Ministers were disposed to give way on this point, in the hope of conciliating the Russians. By pursuing a similar course, those whom he had hitherto employed in the negotiations for peace had shown great weakness, and, instead of promoting, had sacrificed the interests of their country. He was much dissatisfied with them. The more the Turkish Plenipotentiaries yielded, the more exorbitant were the Russian demands. It was quite evident that if the Grand Duke Nicholas took possession of Buyukdéré, it would be with the object of occupying the adjacent fort of Kavak, one of the strongest on the Bosphorus, and commanding its entrance. When once this position was held by the Russians, and a Russian army was encamped to the north of Constantinople, his own army and the capital would be surrounded and completely at their mercy.

His Majesty asked me whether I thought that his refusal to accede to the demand of the Grand Duke would justify the Russians in endeavouring to take Buyukdéré and Kavak by force. I replied that, as the Preliminaries of Peace had expressly placed in the possession of Russia ports on the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmora, where she could embark her troops, it appeared to me unlikely that she would adopt so grave a measure as the seizure by force of positions on the Bosphorus on the plea of having need of them for this purpose. Such an act would be virtually a renewal of war without justifiable cause, which could scarcely be viewed with indifference by Europe. His Majesty remarked that Russia seemed to care little for Treaties or for Europe, but did what she thought fit. At any rate, he felt bound to take precautions against any sudden descent upon Buyukdéré and Kavak, and he proposed to send some ten or fifteen battalions to occupy the heights above those places to resist any such attempt. He asked me whether I saw any objection to his doing so. I said that I could only answer by begging His Majesty to act with the greatest caution and prudence, so as not to afford a pretext to the Grand Duke to make an attempt to obtain forcible possession of a position on the Bosphorus. As troops could be moved up by water to Buyukdéré at very short notice, it would, perhaps, be better not to take any steps unless the movement of a Russian force in the direction of that place were reported.

His Majesty replied that he could not see what objection the Russians could make to a part of his army being encamped on the heights above the Bosphorus. It was, indeed, necessary that some of his troops should be removed from Constantinople, where they were suffering in health from the over-crowded state of the barracks, and were even lodged in the mosques. It was, therefore, very natural that they should be moved to a healthy position under canvas. However, he would take my advice, and not send a force to Buyukdéré until after the ratifications had been exchanged, and he had trustworthy information that the Russians were preparing to move towards the upper part of the Bosphorus. But he intended, he said, to place one or two ships at its entrance, and to take other precautions to prevent a *coup de main* by sea.

I told His Majesty that I would report, by telegraph, what he had stated to me to Her Majesty's Government. Said Pasha informed me that he had learnt that the Russians had sent two steam torpedo-launches, and a number of torpedoes to Buyukdéré Bay, where they had now two ships of war. Admiral Hornby and myself, on going up the Bosphorus two days ago in Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," observed one Russian torpedo steam-launch there. I understand that he has communicated on the subject with the Admiralty. Said Pasha further stated to me that there was about seventy Russian naval officers at San Stephano, and that when the Grand Duke Nicholas was asked the reason of their presence there, he replied that they were required to superintend the embarkation of Russian troops.

On my return to Pera, I had occasion to call on my French colleague, who had been informed of the demands of Russia to occupy Buyukdéré, and of the resolution of the Porte to refuse to comply with it. He attached great importance to the matter, as he said it proved the intention of the Russians to possess themselves of the defences

of the Bosphorus in order to act against the British fleet in case it should attempt to enter the Black Sea.

M. Fournier told me that he had learnt from Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché at the Russian head-quarters, that the Grand Duke Nicholas had received instructions from St. Petersburgh to commence the embarkation of the Guards on the 26th instant, and to remain himself where he then was, in order "to defend the Bosphorus," a phrase which the French Ambassador considered very significant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 634.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 357.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 16, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 301 of the 4th instant, transmitting to your Lordship copies of despatches from Consul Reade in which he brings to my notice the ill-conduct of Fazli Pasha, the military Commandant, and Danish Effendi, the Civil Governor, of Shumla, I have the honour to state that I communicated to the Prime Minister the substance of Mr. Reade's statement with regard to these two functionaries, and that his Highness at once dismissed Danish Effendi. Fazli Pasha, being an officer under the Ministry of War, his Highness has directed that inquiry should be made by that Department into his conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 635.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 358.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Calvert, brought to me by Consul Blunt, who arrived this morning in Constantinople. Other despatches from Mr. Calvert to myself and Mr. Blunt appear to have been intercepted.

I would venture to call your Lordship's earnest attention to the deplorable state of things described by Mr. Calvert as existing in Philippopolis under Russo-Bulgarian administration. It exceeds anything that has ever been known to occur under Turkish rule.

Reports had reached me from various apparently trustworthy quarters of the cruelties and excesses committed by the Russians and Bulgarians in that town; but they were of so shocking a nature that I hesitated to give them credence and to report them to your Lordship. Slaughter and persecution of the inoffensive Mahommedan population, outrages upon their women and destruction of their property, are rife in every district occupied by the Russians, and nowhere, except, perhaps, in the immediate neighbourhood of the Russian head-quarters, where friendly newspaper correspondents are entertained, do the Russian military and civil authorities take any adequate and effective steps to prevent them, or to protect their unhappy victims. This cruel spirit of persecution is not directed against Mussulman alone. It is extended to Greeks, Catholics, and Jews, and all who are not of the Orthodox Bulgarian faith. On all sides I hear that the populations, except the Bulgarian, who are now under Russian protection, indulging in all this license, are regretting Turkish rule, under which they enjoyed religious toleration and protection for their lives and property.

A perusal of Mr. Calvert's despatches will enable your Lordship to judge of what may be expected of the new Bulgarian Principality, and will confirm, as do the statements of Consul Blunt, the opinion that I have expressed that it is the deliberate intention of the Russians to exterminate, or to remove from it, the whole Mahommedan population. I might almost go further, and say, all those who do not belong to the Bulgarian creed recognized as Orthodox by the Russo-Greek Church. Unless

Her Majesty's Government and some other Powers step in to protect the unfortunate victims of Russian and Bulgarian persecution, should there be yet time to do so, this work, undertaken in the name of humanity, civilization, and Christianity, will be fully accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 635.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopoli, January 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the advanced guard of the Russian forces, under General Gourko, entered Philippopolis on the night of the 15th instant. The bulk of the Turkish army under Suleiman Pasha had then already effected its retreat by the Stanimak road. The Turks had left a force of some twenty battalions under Fuad Pasha, I believe, in an intrenched position near Kadikioi, a village on the south bank of the Maritza, some two hours west of this town, for the purpose of covering their retreat. They had likewise placed two guns on the crest of one of the hills on which the town is built, a position commanding the entrance to the town by the bridge, which latter structure they had, moreover, taken the precaution of blowing up.

Early in the morning of the 15th, a Russian force of infantry, cavalry, and a few guns appeared opposite the town on the northern river bank, but they made no attempt to wade the river. They exchanged a desultory rifle and artillery fire with the Turkish battery on the hill which lasted the whole day, but resulted in little injury to either side or to the town, in which only some half-dozen shells fell.

At Kadikioi, however, they were able to pour a destructive fire into the Russian ranks as the latter marched along the Tatar-Bazardjik road, on the opposite side of the river. The Turks were eventually dislodged by a Russian detachment, which waded the stream, icy cold as it was, in the teeth of the Turkish fire; and they fell back upon Deïrmendéré, where they made a further stand the next day. From Deïrmendéré the Turks removed, skirting the base of the Rhodope hills, to Markowo, and thence to Kuragatch and Belustitza; whence, after an engagement which lasted from half-past 7 in the morning till late in the afternoon of the 18th, they were finally dislodged and forced to beat a hasty retreat over precipitous tracks into the heart of the Rhodope mountains.

The Turks left behind them, it is stated, all their remaining heavy artillery, to the number of sixty guns. Of these, however, I understand that only twenty-four fell into the hands of the Russians, the remainder being spiked by the Turks and thrown into the ravines and gullies.

The Russian losses in the three days' fighting which took place before the Turkish rear-guard finally quitted the valley, are estimated by some of the officers here as high as 4,000 or 5,000; but the American Military Attaché, who was present at the different engagements, assures me that the Russian loss does not amount in all to 1,000 men *hors de combat*. Lieutenant Greene estimates the loss of the Turks at about double the above number.

In the successive stages of their retreat, the Turks abandoned most of their artillery, and some sixty guns have thus fallen into the hands of the Russians in this immediate neighbourhood. The Russians also captured some hundreds of prisoners.

At the close of the third day's fighting, Fuad Pasha, or whoever was the General in command of the Ottoman rear-guard, was somehow separated from his immediate followers, and surrounded by the Russians. Refusing to surrender, he was cut down, after having, single-handed, according to the statements of the Russians themselves, killed and wounded no less than seventeen of his assailants.

The Turkish gunners and sharpshooters in the battery on the hill retired in the night of the 15th, almost simultaneously with the entrance in another part of the town of 120 dragoons of the Russian Guard, under Captain Bourago, who crossed the Maritza at a short distance to the west of Philippopolis.

During the forty-eight hours preceding the withdrawal of the Turks, there had been a constant succession of fires in different parts of the town, lighted by marauders and incendiaries to facilitate pillage. So long as the Turkish military authorities

remained in the town they did everything in their power to preserve it from destruction and prevent plunder. The Mushir, Safvet Pasha, and his subordinate Generals directed in person the efforts made to stay the progress of the flames, and it is due to them that the greater portion of the bazaar, which was set fire to on the morning of the 14th instant, escaped destruction. Some 200 looters, chiefly Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks, were arrested by their orders, and several of them were flogged in my presence. Safvet Pasha, who had previously given me his word of honour that there was no intention of burning the town for strategical ends, appeared highly enraged at the work of destruction which had been commenced by unauthorized persons, and declared that he would have the whole of the 200 men caught in the act of plundering shot before the day was over. I am unable yet to state whether he carried out this threat; but I know for a fact that Ali Haidar Pasha, the military Commandant of Philippopolis, with his own hand blew out the brains of two men whom he found looting in another part of the town, and that Sabit Pasha had six irregulars shot for the same offence.

With regard to the fate of the 200 irregulars seized by Safvet Pasha's orders, it is reported that his threat of having them all shot was actually fulfilled. I have reason also to believe that all the worst malefactors in the gaol here, both Turks and Christians, underwent the same fate; but I cannot vouch for the truth of this reported fact until I have visited the spot where it is said that the bodies of the victims of this wholesale execution are still lying.

Some days before the entrance of the Russians all the inmates of the prison who were confined for light offences had been set at liberty; but, during the two days of turmoil and excitement which preceded the departure of the Turks, it is to be feared that the remaining prisoners suffered the most cruel neglect, for I have since visited the prison and found in the different wards ten corpses of prisoners in a state of emaciation which can scarcely have been caused by disease alone.

The Turkish irregulars are reported to have committed many outrages in the villages near here before their withdrawal. Of the truth of this statement I shall shortly satisfy myself and report to your Excellency.

The evacuation of the town by the Turks took place, on the whole, in the most perfect order. A few shops were plundered; but, until the whole of the army had marched out, Turkish sentries kept watch at the street corners in the Christian quarters, and Captain Bourago had already entered the suburbs before the Ottoman sentries were finally relieved.

As regards the state of affairs here since the Russian occupation, the accompanying letter to General Gourko, signed by the Consular Body of Philippopolis, will speak for itself.

I should state, in justification of the rather severe terms in which this letter is worded, that, in company with my three colleagues, I had called upon his Excellency for the purpose of calling his attention to the unrestrained excesses which the Bulgarian population had been committing since the arrival of his troops. The General was good enough to attribute to the intervention of the Consular Body the relatively uninjured condition in which he had found this town; and he requested that we would, by our advice, co-operate with him in re-establishing public order, which he said had been temporarily disturbed. We thereupon at once pointed out to him the steps which seemed to us necessary to that end. We suggested that sentries should be placed at frequent intervals in every part of the town to prevent pillage; that all offenders against the public peace should be severely and summarily punished; and that even one or two executions might be advisable, to show the Bulgarian population that the advent of the Russians was not intended by their liberators to be the signal for unbounded licence.

General Gourko listened to our observations with apparent attention, and promised that everything possible should be done to restore public confidence and tranquillity. On the following afternoon, however, finding that no steps whatever had been taken by the Russian authorities to put a stop to the existing anarchy, and that, on the contrary, the work of plunder and outrage was increasing, the Consular Body drew up the note above referred to.

Nearly the whole of the Turkish population of the town had fled before the Russians arrived. Out of 15,000, barely 100 have remained, and most of these are hiding in the houses of well-disposed Christians. It has just been reported to me that the bodies of two Mussulman women, hacked with knives, are to be seen lying in a house in a suburb of the town. One of them is said to be that of a young woman, and to be stripped naked.

I regret to say that no adequate steps have yet, although the Consular protest herewith inclosed is dated the 17th instant, been taken to put an end to the prevailing disorders.

The animosity of the Bulgarians is directed almost as much against the Greeks, the Roman Catholics, and the Armenians, as against the Turks. To-day the only Greek bookseller's shop in the town was broken into, and the whole stock-in-trade destroyed. A number of Greek Bibles were singled out by the fanatical rabble, and defiled in the most disgusting manner. This outrage was committed in broad daylight, and witnessed by a number of Russian soldiers.

Inclosures Nos. 2 and 3 to this despatch are translations of letters received by Roman Catholic priests in this town from their brethren in the villages, and show to what lengths of outrage the Orthodox peasantry are already proceeding against the Roman Catholics.

General Brock, who has been appointed Governor of the town, has promised that public tranquillity should be restored as soon as his brigade arrives. It is difficult to understand why any of the numerous brigades which are now here should not, in the meantime, be entrusted with the duty of re-establishing order.

When remonstrated with regarding the lawlessness which the Bulgarians are allowed to indulge in, the majority of the Russian officers endeavour to palliate the fact by daily remarking that it is only in the nature of just reprisals. Prince Tsereteleiew, formerly of the Russian Embassy in Constantinople, and now serving in the irregular cavalry, observed in my hearing the other day, as his personal opinion, that the Bulgarians are justified in their present acts by the past conduct of the Turks. To give an idea of the small importance attached by the Russian authorities to these outrages, I may mention that my Greek colleague offered to General Brock to secure the murderers of the Turkish woman butchered in front of his house, but that the Russian General has not thought proper to avail himself of this offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—A Greek inhabitant of Abrashlar, in the district of Karadja-Dagh, has just arrived here in a state of great agitation. He states that he and a few other Greeks, living at Abrashlar, have been forced to fly for their lives after having been robbed of everything by their Bulgarian neighbours; and that the latter yesterday massacred twenty gipsy men, women, and children, and seven Turks who had given up their arms. It is much to be feared that the inhabitants of ten Turkish villages, who received warning of the approach of the Russians too late to fly, have fallen victims to the fury of the Bulgarians.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 635.

The Vice-Consular Corps of Philippopoli to General Gourka.

Philippopoli, le 17 Janvier, 1878.

Excellence,

CONFORMEMENT à l'entretien qui a eu lieu hier entre vous et le Corps Consulaire de Philippopoli, entretien dans lequel vous avez exprimé le désir que les Consuls vous aident à maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité publics, nous prenons la liberté de vous informer que les actes de violence et les méfaits de toutes sortes qui étaient commis par les Bulgares commencent à prendre des proportions de plus en plus grandes. Ces derniers, dont le cœur reste insensible à la voix du patriotisme et que la soif seule du brigandage entraîne, exploitent très adroitement l'innocence des soldats Russes et, au moyen des conseils pernicieux qu'ils leur donnent, les poussent à participer aux actes qu'ils commettent, afin de se servir plus tard d'eux comme d'un égide.

Hier un soldat Turc sans armes a été lachement, et sans raison aucune, assassiné à la gare par un Bulgare; aujourd'hui trois Turcs, dont une femme, ont subi le même sort, cette dernière devant la porte du Vice-Consulat de Grèce. Les vols qui se commettent ne pouvait être énumérés. Les objets qui ont été enlevés aux pilleurs par la police internationale, dont fait partie l'Archevêque Grec, et qui sont accumulés dans la cour du Vice-Consulat Hellénique et de l'Archevêché Grec, suffisent pour en donner les preuves irrécusables.

Cet état de choses, si regrettable, menace de prendre des proportions énormes;

c'est pourquoi nous nous empressons de renouveler encore une fois, M. le Général, la prière que nous vous avons adressée personnellement, de vouloir bien prendre immédiatement, dans l'intérêt général, les mesures nécessaires à la cessation des méfaits qui se succèdent, et dont nous n'avons eu l'exemple dans la ville, ni depuis deux ans, ni même pendant la retraite des Turcs il y a quelques jours; quelques-uns derniers, en quittant leurs propres maisons et leur propre domicile, cassent en en partie le droit de se rendre coupables de quelques actes malveillants envers la population Chrétienne de Philippopoli, qu'ils savaient leur être hostile en tout point.

Permettez-nous aussi de vous faire observer que les mesures que vous avez prises après notre entretien ne suffisent pas. Les Juifs et les Turcs viennent en masse implorer notre protection. Nos sujets souffrent pour le moment très peu, mais, dans le cas où manque de mesures plus sévères, nous craignons qu'ils ne subissent un sort analogue, et qu'en défendant à tout prix leurs personnes et leurs biens, des disputes et même des collisions ayant des suites très-facheuses ne surgissent entre eux et les coupables des méfaits précités.

Nous protestons donc formellement contre le manque de sécurité qui existe, et nous croyons devoir vous informer que nous en rejettons toute la responsabilité.

Nous vous prions, en outre, M. le Général, de vouloir bien attacher à chaque Consulat un officier avec quatre soldats, qui seraient chargés de veiller à notre sureté, et de reprimer, sur notre invitation, tout acte violent qui serait entrepris, soit contre les biens de nos nationaux, soit contre leurs personnes.

Ayant aussi appris que vous êtes disposé à instituer une police, composée d'habitants Philippopolitains, nous nous permettons de vous faire observer, eu égard à ce qui se passe, qu'il serait indispensable d'exclure de ce corps de police que vous projetez tout Bulgare Orthodoxe qui ne pourrait attester de ses bons antécédents, et d'y admettre provisoirement le plus d'étrangers possible, attendu que ces derniers ne seront mûs, dans l'exécution de leur devoir, que par le seul sentiment d'impartialité et de justice.

Persuadés, M. le Général, que les assassinats et les vols que nous nous empressons de vous relater ne manqueront pas de vous indigner et de blesser l'impartialité qui vous distingue, sûrs, en outre, que la demande que nous avons l'honneur de vous adresser trouvera en vous le plus chaleureux accueil, nous vous prions, &c.

(Signé) E. BOYSSEL.
ADELBOURG.
F. R. J. CALVERT.
ATH. MATALAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 635.

Letter from the Roman Catholic Curé of Douanly to a brother Priest in Philippopoli.

(Traduction.)

Mon cher Samuel, *Douanly, le 17 Janvier*, 1878.

J'AI maintenant compris la sentence de l'Evangile: "Les ennemis de l'homme sont ses familiers."

Nous n'avons pas souffert des Turcs ce que nous souffrons à présent des schismatiques; les popes pharisaïques et leurs adhérents se permettent de commettre des iniquités qui demandent répréhension, croyant faire comme ils ont avec le Gouvernement passé.

A Davdjiova, l'église, la cure et le village ont été pillés.

Ambarli a souffert les siennes; le père Antonio est caché depuis quatre jours dans une petite cabane; on lui a pris le cheval, qu'on a conduit au pope de Seldjoba, Nicholas, lequel me dit l'avoir acheté 41 Turques et d'en avoir fait cadeau à un personnage que je m'abstiens de nommer. Moi j'ai été assailli quatre fois par les hordes Bulgares; ils m'ont pris mon fusil, ma bourse avec 51 Turques, or, et d'autres monnaies; ils m'appuyèrent le fusil contre la poitrine, et, dégainant leurs couteaux, ils me menaçaient. Si nous vivons c'est grâce à la très Sainte Vierge. Le père Giovanni a aussi eu les siennes. Après avoir entretenu quelques-uns de ces Bulgares dans sa maison, ils dégainèrent aussi leurs couteaux pour avoir de l'argent; ils lui prirent un crucifix et une soixantaine de piastres.

Ne pouvant souffrir tant de barbarie, j'envoyai de suite à Kara-Toprak, un Chef des Cosaques Gars, qui, plein de gentillesse, m'envoya le Capitaine Colmin, avec

vingt cavaliers, et la plupart de ces mauvais sujets furent pris et conduits au dit Chef, Gars.

Grâce à Dieu nous n'avons depuis lors rien eu de saillant. Je te prie maintenant de faire des démarches en toute hâte, parce que autrement nous et nos Catholics seront tous morts ces jours-ci. Je voulais venir moi-même aujourd'hui, mais je crains de sortir, sûr d'être tué.

* * * * * * *

Ton affectionné,
(Signé) Frère L———.

Inclosure 4 in No. 635.

Letter from a Roman Catholic Priest of Seldjoba to a brother Priest in Philippopoli.

(Traduction.) *Seldjoba, le 18 Janvier*, 1878.

Très cher Père,

GRACE au ciel nous sommes tous vivants, mais ce que nous souffrons Dieu seul le sait. J'ai été assailli deux fois par les voleurs; ils ont pris à l'église et à moi une valeur de 600 piastres. De plus, ils m'appuyèrent leurs épées contre la poitrine; déjà je ne tenais plus compte de la vie. Le porteur de la présente vous dira le reste.

* * * * * * *

Votre bien affectionné,
(Signé) F. G. NEPOMUCÈNE, *Capucin.*

Inclosure 5 in No. 635.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopoli, March 10, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to you a state of things which every impartial spectator—and there are not a few in Philippopolis—must reprehend and deplore; a state of affairs which belies in every respect the promise of the Czar that the abuses existing under Turkish rule should be swept away, and that all inhabitants of the occupied country should, without distinction of race or faith, receive, under Russian auspices, the blessings of a just and impartial Government. A brief narrative of the facts that have come under my observation since the Russians occupied this district will show how far they have put into practice the benevolent intentions of the Czar.

As I have already had the honour to report to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the arrival of the Russian troops was the signal for the Bulgarian population to indulge in all kinds of excesses, not only on the defenceless Mussulman population, who, believing that they would enjoy the protection of the Russian authorities, had remained in their homes, but upon every non-Bulgarian community in the district. Every Turkish house in this town was completely plundered, even to the doors and window-frames; the mosques were forthwith turned into public latrines; a library attached to one of the mosques was destroyed, and the books torn up and defiled. Parties of tipsy soldiers and Bulgarians are still in the habit of ascending the minarets and mimicking the call of the muezzin. The principal mosque was for several days occupied by a Wallachian vendor of spirits, but was afterwards, on my representing the matter to the Russian Governor, rid of its objectionable tenant. Touching this subject of the Mussulman places of worship, I should also mention that General Stalibin, the Governor of the town, requested me the other day to inform the leading Turks of my acquaintance that they might now have three or four of the mosques to conduct their religious service in (the other mosques being required by the Russian authorities to use as hospitals in the event of an epidemic breaking out). On the faith of this permission a muezzin last Friday ventured in the usual way to summon his congregation to prayer, but a gang of Bulgarians ran up the minaret and savagely beat the hodja, threatening to take his life if ever they heard his voice again in that place.

In obedience to an order from the Grand Duke Nicholas, that the Turkish fugitives known to be hiding in the Rhodope Mountains should be induced by assurances of protection to return to the plain, a Proclamation was made, inviting them to come

back without fear. Several thousands complied with this summons, for they were perishing of cold and starvation. On their way hither they were frequently fired at by the Bulgarians, and plundered of their last remaining possessions. The infirm and sick, thus deprived of their means of conveyance, were left to die in the snow, and warm clothing was torn from the shoulders of helpless women and children. The mortality amongst the fugitives was terribly increased by these cruel proceedings. I believe it may also be said without exaggeration that all the young women among them were violated by Bulgarians and Russian soldiers.

The sufferings that were undergone by these unfortunate people before they ventured to quit the mountains must have been appalling. In the asylum which has been opened by the Committee entrusted with the distribution of the Turkish Compassionate Fund here are numbers of children with frost-bitten toes and feet. One little girl, now an inmate of this refuge, was found by a German railway official amongst a heap of 400 men, women, and children, who had been frozen to death on the hills near Tatar-Bazardjik, and of whom she was the only survivor. Another child, who has been adopted by the Russian Governor, was found by some soldiers just as she was about to succumb to the cold that had already killed a party of forty fugitives, whose corpses lay around her.

Worn out with hunger and hardships, the Turkish refugees readily answered the summons to return to their homes; but most of the Mussulman villages and habitations in the country had already been burnt by the Bulgarians, so that the returned refugees had not even the consolation of finding shelter under their own roofs. Fortunately, most of the Turkish houses in the town were empty, and the refugees, to the number at one time of about 15,000, were thus able to enjoy such comfort as doorless and windowless houses could afford. Lest it should be supposed that the Russian authorities have taken any measures to prevent the destruction of Turkish villages, I should here state that it actually continues to the present day, now that the Russians have been for nearly two months in possession of the country. The burning villages are plainly visible from my house, and three large fires are at this moment to be seen in the plain.

The distress amongst the Turkish refugees after their return here has been very great, and is still severe. In spite of the succour given by the International Relief Committee, fifty deaths from starvation occurred in one day, towards the end of January. As the funds of the Committee were diminishing, and the influx of fugitives continued, we applied by letter to the Russian Governor, requesting in the name of humanity that he would give us a portion of the large stores of provisions that had been abandoned here by the Turkish Commissariat and by private individuals, to distribute to the starving Mussulmans. The General at once promised that we should have several thousand okes of beans, rice, flour, &c., and, I believe, ordered that these stores should be handed over to us. A week after the promise was given, finding that our repeated applications to the Chief of the Russian Commissariat, who had been designated by the Russian Governor to supply to us the required provisions, were invariably put off, the Committee wrote a letter to the Chief of Police, stating that, as our funds were almost exhausted, and the assistance promised by his Excellency had not been given, the Committee disclaimed all responsibility for the preservation of the lives of the Turkish refugees. General Stalibin has since assured me that the Director of the Commissariat was alone to blame for the delay, and had been cashiered in consequence. The latter official does not, however, appear to have suffered, since this incident in his career, any diminution of rank or consideration among his brother officers. The International Committee having thus been obliged to renounce the task of relieving all the Turkish poor, the Russian authorities have since made partial distributions of food, which, however, are not sufficient to prevent deaths from want from still occurring. Their niggardly conduct in this matter is inexcusable, as they have means, in the vast quantities of provisions which they found here, for feeding every refugee in the town, besides supplying the wants of their own soldiers; and they have, moreover, confiscated all the property left here by Turks who have fled, which property is to be sold for the benefit of the Municipality.

Respecting these wholesale confiscations, I have to report that, about the time when the Mussulman refugees were invited to return from the mountains, a decree was placarded in the streets, declaring that all Mussulman property which was not claimed within eleven days, would be seized and sold. I took an early opportunity of representing to the Governor that the term allowed for the Turkish owners to come forward was manifestly too short, as most of them were now at Constantinople, and it would be impossible for them to claim their property until the war was over. His

Excellency said he also thought that the term was not long enough, and that he would not allow any Turkish property to be confiscated before the owners had had a fair chance of claiming it. Most of the Turkish moveable property that yet remained intact, with the exception of the private stores of rice, wheat, &c. (which were long ago appropriated by the Russian authorities), consisted of that which had been left by Turks in the keeping of Christian friends. M. Tacchella, an influential Italian merchant, for instance, was intrusted by fugitive Turks with several thousands of pounds worth of goods; and when, some time ago, the Russian police demanded that he should transfer these goods to their keeping, he refused to do so unless compelled. Last week the police made a descent on his warehouses, and carried off all the Turkish property stored up in them. The more valuable of these goods were taken to the Russian Vice-Consulate, the remainder to the police office. It is stated that the whole of them will be sold, and the proceeds handed over to the Municipality. But it is not only the hitherto unclaimed property of Turks which is being thus sequestrated. Hadji Shaban Aga, one of the most upright as well as of the most influential Turks of Philippopolis, returned a few days ago to try to recover the wreck of his belongings. On alighting at the railway station, three horses, which he had brought from Adrianople, were taken from him by Russian soldiers. He has since been vainly endeavouring to obtain restitution of the property which he had left here, and has even failed to recover the horses of which he was robbed in the light of day and the presence of numerous witnesses.

Shaban Agha, however, has been made to feel, by still more unmistakable tokens, that, as a Turk, he need expect no justice from a Russian administration. The day after his arrival he was accosted in the street by a Bulgarian peasant, who, with threats, demanded 5,000 piastres of him. A crowd assembled to hear the altercation, and the Bulgarian declared to the sympathising bystanders that Shaban Agha last year took a bribe of 5,000 piastres to have him released from prison. Shaban Agha in vain protested his innocence; he was carried before Major Kolokoltchoff, the Chief of Police, who said that he must remain under arrest until he could prove the charge to be unfounded. Several of the leading Christians, hearing of Shaban Agha's predicament, hastened to try to rescue him, and offered to be bail for his re-appearance, if released. Amongst them was M. Tacchella, who, with great difficulty, prevailed upon Major Kolokoltchoff to accept his surety. Shaban Agha was then set at liberty. But M. Tacchella soon discovered the impolicy of his act. It is necessary here to state that the Russians soon after their arrival proceeded to form a Municipal Council, consisting, with the exception of one Jew, of Christian members, mostly Bulgarians. The incapacity and utter want of public spirit displayed by the majority of the members led the Governor to ask M. Tacchella to assume the Vice-Presidency of the Council, the President being Major Kolokoltchoff, Chief of the Police. M. Tacchella accepted the post, and an element of respectability was thus introduced into a Council, most of whose members had, until then, been devoting the whole of their minds to the furtherance of their private interests. In concert with the Chief of the Police, M. Tacchella planned several sound measures, which were carried out to the benefit of the town. But his open advocacy of the cause of the unfortunate Turks appears to have brought him into disfavour; and his proceedings in behalf of Shaban Agha brought him to a rupture with the Russian authorities. The Chief of Police invited M. Tacchella to his house, and, after expressing astonishment that a Christian could reconcile it with his conscience to become surety for a Mahommedan, intimated that, in the opinion of the Governor, the "philo-Turkish" sentiments of M. Tacchella made it desirable that he should send in his resignation. M. Tacchella, indignant at such avowed bigotry, wrote out his resignation on the spot. The Bulgarian accuser of Shaban Agha has since betrayed the falseness of his claim by compounding it with the Agha for the sum of ten piastres.

When I first made M. Tacchella's acquaintance eighteen months ago, he was a warm upholder of the Bulgarian cause, though his sympathy with their grievances did not blind him to the virtues which the Turks are by most people admitted to possess. Whilst he never hesitated to upbraid the Turks for their vices and shortcomings, they, far from resenting his outspokenness, looked upon him as a friend. He has, perhaps too freely, animadverted on the conduct of the Russians and Bulgarians of late, and these do not, like the Turks, take his observations in good part. Major Kolokoltchoff's remark, "Je n'aurais jamais cru qu'un Chrétien pût se porter garant pour un Turc," has gone the round of foreign society here, and excited universal indignation.

To every foreigner and non-Bulgarian in Philippopolis the Russians apply the epithet of "philo-Turks." No word in their vocabulary seems to express greater infamy.

But every one comes under this denomination who maintains the right of the Turks to look for justice, and to be treated as the equals of the grovelling and ten times more fanatical Christians, at whose mercy Russia appears to delight in placing them.

From the highest to the lowest, the Russians display an ostentatious disregard for the religious feelings of the Mussulmans. They have already begun to clear away the tombstones from the Turkish cemeteries in the town, which they are preparing to convert into public promenades. The course pursued by the local Relief Committee since their arrival, in bestowing aid almost exclusively on Mussulman fugitives, has been highly displeasing to the Russian authorities, and the Russian Governor has actually attempted to compel the Committee to relieve a larger number of Bulgarians by threatening, unless it did so, and admitted as members the Bulgarian and Greek Bishops, to withhold the supply of provisions for which the Committee had applied. The Committee, however, steadily refused to alter its course, stating that its object was to relieve only the most destitute; that there were Turks actually dying of starvation; and that they had only the Committee to look to for aid, while the Bulgarian poor might easily be supported by the rich of their own community, who last year contributed scarcely anything to the funds of the Committee, which was then labouring exclusively in behalf of their co-religionists; but that, if he could bring to its notice any Bulgarian equally in danger of dying from want, relief would instantly be given.

Lately, also, the Chief of the Police has requested the Committee to receive into its orphanage Christian children as well as Mussulman. We objected that there were probably no Christian children equally destitute, but added that, if any should be discovered, we would not hesitate to admit them. Major Kolokoltchoff afterwards astounded M. Tacchella, who is honorary treasurer to the Committee, by remarking that, as he presumed the Committee did not intend to allow the orphans supported by it to grow up in the errors of Mahommedanism, it would be advisable that they should be converted to the predominating Church (*i.e.*, the Bulgarian) rather than to any other form of Christianity. M. Tacchella replied that the Committee, having no religious or political, but solely humanitarian, objects in view, had no intention of converting those whom it relieved, and that its determination was, if possible, in order to prevent its motives from being misinterpreted, to have all the orphans adopted in Mussulman families.

Regarding the subject of massacres, I have the honour to submit, as follows, the result of my personal observations and inquiries.

A few days before the Russians arrived, a band of Circassians and Turks, the latter being inhabitants of the suburb of Karshi-Aka, a quarter always notorious for crime, went by night to the Bulgarian village of Tchirpeli, two hours from here, and massacred sixty people of both sexes and all ages. I visited this village, having heard that the bodies of the victims were still exposed to view, but found that they had just been buried. The same band of malefactors had prepared to make a descent on the Christian quarters of Philippopolis in the night of the 14th January, but were thwarted by a company of soldiers sent by Safvet Pasha, whom I apprized of their plan.

I regret to state, also, that I have found the report of the wholesale executions of prisoners lately in the gaol here to be true. The Bulgarian political prisoners, however, appear alone to have suffered death. They were marched out, to the number of over 100, to a place half-an-hour from the railway station, and bayonetted. Their bodies were then thrown into a trench and partly covered with earth. I have visited the spot, and saw a number of arms, heads, and legs protruding from the earth, but could not count the bodies, most of them being concealed from view. From the clothing scattered about, I should say that the corpses were all those of Bulgarians. The Turkish and Circassian prisoners are now reported not to have been massacred, but marched away with the army. Between the scene of this barbarous execution and the railway station, I found also in one spot the bodies of twelve Bulgarian waggoners, cut and slashed almost beyond recognition. I have ridden over almost every square acre of ground within twelve miles of this town, and I believe that no other Bulgarians besides those mentioned above have been massacred in this neighbourhood.

Of Turkish corpses I have seen over 200; they lay on every road and path; twenty-three were bodies of women, and of these fully a dozen were stripped from the waist downwards. In one instance the woman's body had been severed at the waist, and the lower half carried away, apparently as it was nowhere to be seen. Most of the bodies had bullet wounds, but some bore knife-cuts, and a few, perhaps, may have died from natural causes.

In the beginning of last month, the Russian Governor informed me that strict

orders had been given to bury all the corpses of human beings and animals which lay about the country and in the town, and that a superior officer had been appointed to see that the work was properly done. Now, however, after the lapse of six weeks, there are still many unburied and festering corpses in the fields and even in the town itself; those which have been interred might as well have not been touched, as they are hardly covered by the earth thrown over them, and the dogs could easily get hold of them if they liked, but have ample materials for gorging themselves without scratching the ground for a meal. The carelessness of the Russians about burying corpses is quite equal to that of the Turks, and threatens most fatal results to the public health. Already typhoid fever is making terrible ravages among the troops and the population of the town, and the epidemic will meet with conditions most favourable to its growth as the weather becomes warmer. I visited, some time ago, a building in which were confined some 150 Turkish prisoners of war. They complained of not being given food enough to keep them alive; one man, a sergeant, said that, after being left twenty-four hours without food, he had got a stale biscuit from his Russian guards by the payment of 4 francs, which was all the money he had. Many of the prisoners were sick, some with typhoid; but the sick and the healthy were crowded together. Thirteen bodies, some of which, the prisoners told us, had been there three days, lay about the yard. I lost no time in making known these facts to the Governor, who ordered that the dead should be buried, and gave permission for the sick to be conveyed to the Stafford House Hospital, which was accordingly done. The Russians are almost as dilatory in burying their own dead as in burying the bodies of Turks and animals. The inhabitants of houses adjoining the military hospitals complain that the patients who die are kept on the premises for days together. Nothing could be easier than to organize a system of prompt interment, and the troops might be employed for that purpose instead of passing their time in the wine-shops.

Touching the much disputed subject of cruelty in the character of the Russian soldiers, I will here beg leave to relate a sad incident which came under my personal observation. About a fortnight after the retreat of the Turks into the mountains, I rode to Staninak, in company with Dr. Mendès, a Russian army surgeon. On the road, a distance of twelve miles, we passed a number of corpses of Turkish soldiers and peasants. On our way back we began to count the bodies; but at a short distance from Staninak we noticed one which I did not remember to have seen before; the clothing was that of a Turkish soldier, and there was fresh blood on it. My companion dismounted, and satisfied himself that the man had not been dead two hours, and that he had died of a bullet-wound in the breast. From the peasants who passed us we could not obtain any explanation of the circumstance. About four miles further on the road, however, we came up with a group of peasants kneeling and stooping over something which turned out to be a Turkish soldier. We asked what they were doing, and, at the same moment, the Turk, who seemed lifeless at first, began to move about and utter unintelligible words, like a person in delirium. The Bulgarians had probably been plundering him when we came up, as he had nothing on him but his shirt and breeches. He had a deep sabre-cut in the neck, from which the blood was trickling. The Bulgarians explained to us that the wounded man was one of a convoy of prisoners who had been brought down that afternoon; that, falling out of the ranks from illness, he had been sabred by a soldier of the escort and left for dead. They said that the other fresh corpse which we had seen was that of another prisoner killed under similar circumstances. I proposed to give the peasants a handsome reward if they would carry the wounded Turk into town, but they said they could not do it. I would have wished to put him on my horse, and thus conveyed him to the hospital, but my medical companion declared that the attempt would be unavailing, as the man was already nearly dead, and so scantily clothed that he would die of cold (it was already dark and freezing hard) within half-an-hour. As it would have taken fully two hours to carry the unfortunate man to town, I was obliged, most reluctantly, to leave him on the road. I told the Governor of the tragical affair a few days after-wards; but he assured me that no prisoners had been brought in for more than a week, and therefore that Russian soldiers could not have been guilty of these murders. But the question suggests itself, how, except as prisoners, could two Turkish soldiers, wearing their uniform, have found their way over a hundred miles into a country occupied by their enemy? A Greek inhabitant of Tchitak, in the Rhodope district, who lately arrived here, tells me that the road from that village to Staninak is strewn with the bodies of Turkish prisoners, who, when unable to march, were killed by their escort.

The testimony of many witnesses concurs, moreover, in showing that the Turkish prisoners are most savagely treated on the march. Of those who have been dispatched from here to Russia many were, even at starting, barefooted and limping, or unwell; and in the streets of Philippopolis the laggards were stimulated by being pricked with the bayonet.

Several days after the Russians arrived I was informed by General Wellyaminoff, then Governor of the town, that there were still some Turkish wounded lying untended and starving in a shed near the railway-station. I communicated on the subject with Dr. Minassian, the surgeon in charge of the Stafford House Hospital, and received from him in reply a letter of which I beg to inclose herewith a copy. About 140 wounded had been left by the Turks in the shed in qustion, and of these over fifty died before all the living could be removed from the building. Their bodies remained unburied for more than three weeks. Dr. Minassian's letter shows that great barbarity was displayed by Russian soldiers towards the Turkish wounded in this instance.

The conduct of the Russians here, as the foregoing part of this report tends to show, has been in all respects inconsistent with civilization and humanity, and, in my humble opinion, the Bulgarians, who are much abused for the excesses in which they have indulged, are not by any means so much to blame as the Russian military authorities, who, I do not hesitate to say, have encouraged their evil instincts. Instead of setting a worthy example, which they might have done by ignoring all differences of religion and race, and dealing out impartial justice to all, and by which they could have won the sympathy of every unbiassed person, the conquerors have made a point of exalting, by every possible means, the Bulgarian element at the expense of the Mussulmans, Greeks, Jews, and Armenians alike. And this, strangely enough, they do while proclaiming to every European in the place a profound contempt and detestation of the Bulgarians.

One of their first acts was to create a new principality, and it was arranged that each community should be represented in proportion to its numbers. One member was to be returned for every hundred houses. The Bulgarians, representing that they numbered 2,000 houses, and the Greeks only 1,000, twenty Bulgarian members were, without further inquiry, elected, and only ten Greeks. Subsequently, a census of the houses in the town was taken, and, apparently, the returns obtained were unsatisfactory from the pro-Bulgarian point of view, as a second census was instituted soon after, and now a third is in progress, in the carrying out of which unjustifiable pressure is being put upon Greek householders to induce them to declare themselves Bulgarians. The numbers of Greek and Bulgarian houses here are, I believe, in reality about equal.

A Bulgarian of Kalofer has been appointed as second in authority to the Russian Governor of Staninak, which is a Greek town of 12,000 inhabitants. I pointed out to General Stalibin the unfairness of this arrangement, but he explained that his orders were to establish a Bulgarian administration everywhere, without reference to the existence of other communities. The Turkish inhabitants of Philippopolis, of whom about 1,000 have now returned, have not yet been called upon to furnish a single member to the municipality.

It would be easy to cite many other facts of a like nature.

The Bulgarians, elated by these tokens of exclusive favour, have adopted an overbearing demeanour that excites in the breasts of the Greeks, at all events, a bitterness to which they dare not as yet openly give expression, but which will undoubtedly on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, vent itself in a way that must produce serious troubles, and probably bloodshed.

That the Russians are bent upon smothering every element except the Slav is a fact of which there can be no doubt whatever. Universal satisfaction was expressed by the Russian officers when they arrived here and found that nearly all the Mussulman population had disappeared, never, it was hoped, to return. And now that a small remnant of it has returned the authorities are doing their best to crush it. Besides the studied indignity with which the Mussulmans are treated, and the insults to their religion which they are obliged to bear, they are subjected to what is, for a Turk, the greatest of all misfortunes. It is said that not a single Turkish young woman here has escaped violation. To this hour the Turkish females are continually liable to outrage, and dare not make any complaint. The new Bulgarian police are reported to be most active in these shameful proceedings, indulging their own inclinations as well as pandering to those Russian officers by whom they are liberally paid for their vile services.

The townspeople in general have been subjected to treatment which they never experienced at the hands of the Turks. Officers and common soldiers have quartered themselves upon them, in many cases by force, and complaints of their behaviour are heard on every side. The most incredible accusations, indeed, are made against them. Generals of division are accused of attempting the honour of the women in the houses where they are quartered; officers of all grades of stealing the property of their hosts. Even the house of M. Tsaliki, the Dragoman of the former Russian Vice-Consulate, has been pillaged, and the culprits are said to have been Russian officers. Charges of dishonesty are also freely made against the officers of the administration. The Commissariat officers are admitted, by the Russians themselves, to be venal to the last degree. It is now stated that the goods of the fugitive Turks are being divided among the Russians, and that much jewellery and many other articles of value have thus become prizes of war. It was suggested to the authorities that, if the confiscation of Turkish property was absolutely decided upon, it would be a charitable act to devote the proceeds to the relief of the starving Turks in the town; but this idea seems to have been unacceptable, as it is not being carried out. As regards the plunder taken from the Turkish houses during the early part of the Russian occupation, report accuses some of the leading Bulgarians of the place of having received a large share of it.

Isolated instances of outrage upon non-Bulgarian Christians in the villages are multiplying. In the Roman Catholic village of Douwandja a young nun was lately, during more than a week, daily violated by several Orthodox Bulgarians. At Peshtera a Greek was shot dead the other day, without provocation, by a Bulgarian neighbour, who has not yet been arrested. At Tchitak a Greek girl has been treated, again by Bulgarians, in the same way as the Catholic nun at Douwandja. The Greek priests at Akhir-Tchelebi have been personally ill-treated and forbidden to officiate in their own tongue any longer. Three weeks ago a convoy of Mussulman refugees, natives of the Samakow district, were dispatched thither from here under the escort of Cossacks. It is reported that all the young women amongst them were, on the way, violated and carried off by Bulgars, with the consent of the Cossacks.

A great number of the fugitives who were overtaken by the Russian army in its rapid advance were massacred by the Bulgarians. In this way perished the Mufti of Philippopolis, a decrepit old man, who, with his wife and two children, his granddaughters, was murdered at Arapovo, six hours from here; another of his grandchildren, a little girl, was brought to Philippopolis with a bullet in her arm. At Carlova, all the Turks having fled, the Bulgarians have, it is reported, massacred four Jews—two old men and two old women—who were the only members of the Jewish community left in Carlova.

The anniversary of the Emperor Alexander's accession to the throne was celebrated here on the 3rd instant. By order of the Russian authorities solemn thanksgivings were offered up in the Bulgarian, Greek, and Roman Catholic Churches, and in the Jewish synagogue, for the deliverance of the country from Turkish rule. The townspeople were, moreover, commanded to deck their houses with banners, and to illuminate in the evening. All who disobeyed these injunctions were heavily fined the next morning. A ball was given in the evening, likewise by order of the authorities; the expenses being defrayed by the townspeople. To secure a large attendance of ladies, it was thought necessary to hint that the houses inhabited by absentee ladies should be selected for hospitals in preference to other houses. It having been reported that a ball given lately at Tirnova was the scene of some rather disgraceful behaviour, very few ladies would probably have attended the ball here, but for the threat above-mentioned. As it turned out, however, the ball passed off with perfect order and propriety.

The town was again decorated and illuminated on the 5th instant, in consequence of the announcement of the signature of the Treaty of Peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 635.

Dr. Minassian to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert.

Dear Sir, *Stafford House Hospital, January 28, 1878.*

THERE are no moving bodies in the shed where the sick and wounded from the hospitals were placed, but a man was found in the railway station, who must have gone in there since the day we removed all the sick and wounded men to our hospital. I took away two from the railway station the other day, one was wounded and the other had his feet burnt accidentally before he undertook to run away; he was a refugee.

My man says that the dead in that shed are not buried yet, and some Russians were asking him to bury them. Are we obliged to bury them, or is it the duty of the authorities to see to it? It seems to me it is their place to bury the dead, and not of the medical men of the retreating army.

I should very much like to tell the officer who informed you that there were some yet alive among the dead bodies in the shed at the station that we had to take away our sick and wounded from there under the fire of the Russian soldiers.

On the day after the fight, January 16, I, being unwell, sent our Stafford House Apothecary to superintend the transfer of the men from the shed to the hospitals, he came very near getting a bullet through his head, because he was removing Turkish soldiers, and gave up the work after loading only one araba with five or six men.

The next day I sent my storekeeper, and he only could load two arabas, about ten or fourteen men, whom the Russian soldiers pounded and kicked on the way, he himself getting his share of the youmrouks (fisticuffs), and he declared he would not go again. I then applied to the authorities, procured two dragoons to go with the arabas, and finally succeeded in getting them all to the hospitals.

The first few days the Russian soldiers went into the hospitals, of which we have two, and attempted to get money from the soldiers with threats, &c., but we finally succeeded in stopping that business. To-day, or rather last night, my storekeeper was again complaining about the Russian soldiers meddling with the Turkish soldiers that were carrying the dead from our hospitals to bury them, the Russians taking away some of the clothes from the dead.

If the officer, who was so kind as to try to make out to you that we left living men among the dead, will be kind enough to take measures, so that I shall hear no more such complaints, and then bury the dead in the shed, I shall be very much obliged to him.

The other day one of the military apothecaries found fifteen men, sick and wounded, in the Meylahané buildings, in a state of starvation; two of them had died, and the rest were taken to the hospital. . . .

* * * * *

I think the greatest shame was when my men were fired upon while removing the Turkish soldiers, and when they were insulted while carrying the dead. . . . .

Very respectfully yours,
(Signed) S. MINASSIAN.

No. 636.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 359.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 17, 1878.*

AS I was desirous of consulting Consul Blunt upon various matters connected with his district and with reference to the condition of the Russian army, and to the populations of some of the districts included in the new Bulgarian Principality, I requested him to come to Constantinople, as I have no safe means of communicating with him, all correspondence with Adrianople passing through Russian hands or being intercepted.

Mr. Blunt arrived here this morning. He informs me that the Russian authorities have refused to recognize him or his colleagues in any official capacity. They have done the same with regard to the Consuls and Consular Agents at Philippopoli and elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 637.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 29.*)

(No. 361. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed from good sources that all the intrigues and underground practices, which Russia knows so well how to employ in this country, have been put into motion for the purpose of upsetting Ahmed Vefyk Pasha, and replacing him by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, the tool of General Ignatieff in bringing about the ruin of Turkey and in promoting the ambitious designs of Russia. M. Onou, the well-known Russian Head Dragoman, is directing the business, and Mahmoud Nedim himself is not a stranger to it.

The ex-Grand Vizier has written to an English journalist here asking him to advocate his cause and to write him up, placing at the same time at this gentleman's disposal at a bank 300*l.*

I am happy to say for the credit of English journalism that this offer was refused. I have this from a person who has seen Mahmoud Nedim's letter.

There is every probability that the intrigues to which I have referred will succeed, especially if General Count Ignatieff should return, as it is expected he will, to Constantinople. The influence of Russia will in future be predominant at the Porte, and there will be no other influence to stand against it. The return of such a man as Mahmoud Nedim Pasha to power will hasten the break-up of what little may remain of Turkey, and, it may be feared, to the promotion of Russian designs in Asia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 638.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 362.)

Constantinople, March 18, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in obedience to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 345 of the 9th instant, I have this day addressed a note to his Excellency Safvet Pasha, transmitting copy of your Lordship's reply to Count Beust respecting the proposal that a Congress should be held at Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 639.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 365. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 18, 1878.

My Lord,

BY my despatch No. 364 of to-day I have transmitted a letter addressed to your Lordship by Archbishop Narsis, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople. When his Eminence called upon me to request that I would forward this letter he took occasion to enter very fully into the position and grievances of the Armenian nation or community. Your Lordship will remember that last year his Eminence was anxious to persuade me that his people were not dissatisfied with the Turkish rule, and that they greatly preferred remaining under it to being transferred to that of Russia. He even declared their readiness to enrol themselves in the Turkish army, or to be formed into a local force for the defence of the Turkish territory. His Eminence admitted to me when I saw him yesterday that such had been the case. But he said that since the Russian successes, and especially since it had become known that Russia had stipulated in one of the Articles of the Preliminaries of Peace for administrative reforms for Armenia, the state of affairs had completely changed. The Armenians were now greatly irritated against him for having put Russia against them by giving his support to the Turkish Government, and "threatened to stone him." The fact that a large number of their fellow-countrymen had been transferred to Christian rule by the annexation of a part of Armenia to Russia, and that autonomous Government was about to be conceded to the Christian populations of European Turkey, naturally led them to demand the same privileges. Their hatred of Mahommedan rule had been increased by the excesses committed by the Kurds upon the Armenian inhabitants of the Province of Van and of the district of Bayazid, for which he had in vain appealed to the Porte for redress. The Armenians were now determined to assert their rights, and to claim to be placed upon the same footing as their fellow-Christians elsewhere. If they could not obtain what they asked from the justice and through the intervention of Europe, they would appeal to Russia, and would not cease to agitate until they were annexed to her. Already, his Eminence said, a large portion of the Christian population of Armenia was preparing to emigrate to the territories ceded to Russia. He trusted, therefore, that the demands of the Armenians for an autonomous Christian Government would be taken into favourable consideration at the Congress, and that Europe would insist upon the formation of a self-governing Armenian province.

His Excellency showed me the copy of a letter which he had addressed to Prince Bismarck, soliciting his Highness's protection and good offices for the Armenians. He had sent it through Prince Reuss, who, as I have had occasion to inform your Lordship, has been in frequent communication of late with the heads of the Armenian community, with the object, I am assured, of detaching them from their allegiance to the Sultan, and of promoting the policy of Russia.

I asked the Patriarch what he understood by "Armenia," and what part of Turkey in Asia he considered ought to be included in the autonomous province that he had in view. His Eminence replied that Armenia should contain the Pashalics of Van and Sivas, the greater part of that of Diarbekir, and the ancient kingdom of Cilicia (or the province on the northern boundary of Syria, and extending to the west from the Taurus range to the sea). I pointed out to his Eminence that what he asked was a very large slice indeed out of the territories remaining to the Sultan in Asia Minor, and that in the provinces he had mentioned, I had reason to believe, a very large majority of the population consisted of Mussulmans. He did not deny that such was the case; but he maintained that the Turks themselves were greatly dissatisfied with the rule of the Porte, and would willingly accept a Christian Government which would afford them protection for their lives and property.

To a remark that I made to the Patriarch that I did not think it probable that the Congress would entertain so vast a project as that which he had placed before me, his Eminence replied that if it did not do so, and did not listen to the just demands of the Armenians, the country to which he had referred would rise, within a short time, against Turkish rule, and would annex itself to Russia. He further observed that amongst the Generals and high functionaries employed by Russia in Georgia and Armenia were many Armenians, some of whom had greatly distinguished themselves during the war; that they were in close relations with their brethren in Turkey, and that whatever his own personal views might be—and he was a simple priest, and had no mundane ambition—his people were determined no longer to submit to Mahommedan rule, and he could not oppose himself to their wishes.

I recount my conversation with the Patriarch to your Lordship, as it tends to confirm what I have ventured to submit in other despatches with respect to the danger of exciting the hopes and desires of other populations of the Turkish Empire by according to those of European Turkey autonomous institutions. An encouragement is thus given to intrigues and insurrections in all parts of the Sultan's dominions, and to attempts to throw off his authority and that of his Government which must inevitably lead, sooner or later, to very serious results. If I am not misinformed such intrigues are now carried on very actively and extensively for this object. The movement amongst the Armenians is probably caused by these. It is not improbable that we shall, ere long, hear of similar movements amongst the Mussulman as well as Christian populations of other parts of Asiatic Turkey, including Syria. They may take the form in Africa of a demand for complete independence of the Porte. The falling to pieces and dismemberment of the Turkish Empire may be in the eyes of some a desirable event, but England ought at least to be prepared for the consequences. That an autonomous State, such as the "Armenia" of the Patriarch, could long preserve even its semi-independence, no one acquainted with the populations which inhabit the provinces it is proposed by sanguine Armenians to include within its boundaries, could for one moment believe. Autonomy must end in

annexation to Russia, an event which the Patriarch evidently seemed to contemplate. How far would it suit the interests of England that Russia should extend her dominion over so large an additional portion of Asia Minor and up to the very borders of Syria? That she will ultimately do so appears to me one of the results of her annexation of Eastern Armenia as far south as Bayazid.

The Patriarch requested me to consider our conversation confidential, as he was afraid that he would compromise himself with the Turkish Government if what had passed between us came to be known.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 640.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 367.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 19, 1878.*

YOUR Lordship has been good enough to inform me, in your despatch No. 322 of the 6th instant, that my explanation respecting the telegraphic information sent by me to Her Majesty's Government as to the Russian advance upon Constantinople is perfectly satisfactory. This assurance is quite sufficient for me, and I beg to thank your Lordship for it. I should not return to the subject were it not that the "Times" and other correspondents here, known to be "inspired" from Russian sources, have recently reasserted, on Russian authority, that my statements to Her Majesty's Government were inaccurate, and that the terms of the armistice were known to the Sultan and his Ministers when the Russians, advancing through Silivria, took possession of Tchataldja and compelled the Turks to abandon the lines for the defence of Constantinople. These gentlemen go so far as to insinuate that the declaration of the Porte, that it was ignorant of the conditions of the armistice, was a farce got up to deceive me and others, and that it was all along playing into the hands of the Russians. I have fortunately got the original document upon which my telegram to your Lordship of the 5th February was founded, and I have the honour to inclose it. It is not, I believe, necessary for my justification, or to expose the absurd stories that are daily invented and circulated by newspaper correspondents; but it may be worth preserving as an historical document to prove the deception practised upon the Sultan and the Porte, with the connivance of Server Pasha. It is, as your Lordship will perceive, the draft of a telegram sent by the Prime Minister to the Turkish Plenipotentiary when the Porte learnt, for the first time, that the Russians were marching on Tchataldja.

I have had an opportunity of questioning Mukhtar Pasha, who was in command of the Buyuk Tchekmedje lines at the time, on this subject, and he assures me that he was entirely ignorant of the fact that Tchataldja and the defences of the city were given up by the armistice, and that he was prepared to resist the approach of the Russian forces to the lines. I have every reason to believe that this statement is strictly true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 640.

Draft of Telegram from the Prime Minister to the Turkish Plenipotentiary.

~~LES troupes Russes qui ont occupé Silivrie se disposent à marcher sur Tchataldja. Toutes les démarches faites par nos autorités militaires auprès du Général qui commande cette division ont été infructueuses à arrêter sa marche.~~

~~Veuillez signaler d'urgence cet état de choses à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc et le prier de vouloir bien y mettre un terme.~~

EN présence de l'insistance du Général Strogoff, le Commandant du corps de Silivrie s'est vu obligé de réunir ses troupes à l'extrémité de la ville et s'est placé au [?] pour attendre des ordres ultérieurs de la Sublime Porte. Il n'a pas manqué de faire des représentations au Général Russe en se rendant personnellement auprès de lui; il est allé même jusqu'à lui proposer une occupation collective de la ville.

Cependant le Général Russe s'est refusé à entrer dans aucun espèce d'arrangement et a refusé même la protestation que le Commandant Ottoman a voulu lui remettre. Ayant compris que la prolongation du séjour des troupes Ottomanes à Silivrie pourrait donner lieu à de graves inconvénients, il donna à ses troupes l'ordre de se retirer et dans la nuit il occupa le village de Pagodos, se proposant de se rendre le lendemain à Kademkui. Entres autres, le Général Strogoff a déclaré que d'après la décision arrêtée il devrait absolument occuper aujourd'hui Tchataldja.

~~Veuillez demander immédiatement à Son Altesse Impériale le Grand Duc de~~ l'ordre au ~~Général~~ Strogoff d'arrêter la marche de ses colonnes. [?] et

4 Février.

No. 641.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 372.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 19, 1878.*

IN my despatch to your Lordship No. 348 of the 13th instant, I observed, in commenting upon the term fixed for the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the Bulgarian Principality, that it was provided by the VIIIth Article of the Preliminaries of Peace that they were to remain until a national militia had been formed, sufficient to maintain order, security, and tranquillity, and that no specific term was fixed for the formation of such a militia. But I omitted to add that this occupation was to be limited to the approximate term of two years. It is right that I should make this rectification, in order to be perfectly accurate, although it does not appear to me to affect my argument; for I conceive that if "order, tranquillity, and security" are not established in Bulgaria—and it will depend upon Russia whether they are or not—the Russian troops will scarcely be withdrawn, and the Principality left in a state of anarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 642.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 378. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1878.*

FOR some days past a discussion has been going on between the Grand Duke Nicholas and the Porte with reference to a visit which his Imperial Highness proposes to pay to the Sultan.

As far as I can understand from what I have heard from His Majesty himself and the Prime Minister, the facts of the case are the following:—

The Grand Duke, after the conclusion of the negotiations for the Preliminaries of Peace at San Stefano, expressed a wish to see the Sultan. His Majesty replied that he would be happy to receive his Imperial Highness, but that the state of his health, and the distress of mind from which he was suffering, were such as to prevent him giving public audiences, and that he had recently been obliged to receive the Ambassadors of England and France in private when they presented their credentials. His Majesty hoped, therefore, that the Grand Duke would consent to be received in the same manner. His Imperial Highness, however, insisted, not only upon a public audience, but that he should ride on horseback through Constantinople and the suburbs to the Yildiz Kiosk, accompanied by his Generals and the various Princes who are at his head-quarters, and by a large staff amounting to about 200 persons, whom he desired to present to His Majesty. It was further demanded that the Sultan should return the Grand Duke's visit at the German, or, according to one account, the Russian Embassy.

His Majesty believed that this proposal was made with a view to show to the world that the Grand Duke was master of Constantinople. He not unnaturally felt that to proclaim thus publicly and ostentatiously in his own capital the defeat of his country would be to humiliate him, not only in the eyes of his subjects, but in those of the whole Mahommedan world. He also feared that this triumphal passage

of the Grand Duke through the city and its suburbs might lead to demonstrations on the part of the Christians, incited by Russian agents, which would be offensive to him, and might lead to consequences that would afford the Grand Duke a pretext to occupy Constantinople with his troops.

Various alternatives were suggested; amongst them that the Grand Duke should proceed with a small staff on horseback, or in carriages, to Yildiz Kiosk, by a road outside the city, and not passing through either of its suburbs, or that the Sultan should send his yacht to San Stefano to bring his Imperial Highness to the Dolma Bagdche Palace, on the Bosphorus, from whence he would be conveyed to Yildiz in the royal carriages, the Sultan returning the visit at the palace, or on board the yacht; or, as I was told by the Sultan, that a tent should be erected between the walls of Constantinople and San Stefano, where he would meet and entertain the Grand Duke. These proposals have hitherto been rejected, and the Sultan has avoided according to his Imperial Highness' demand on the plea of indisposition.

His Majesty spoke to me on the subject with much emotion. He said that it was very ungenerous on the part of the Grand Duke to exercise the extreme rights of a conqueror, and to expose him to the trial of receiving in public audience those who had caused such terrible calamities to his country, and to his Mussulman subjects. He felt quite unequal to going through such a ceremony, and the very thought of it gave him "palpitation of the heart" (using the French words). His Majesty added that the Russians called him and his people barbarians, but barbarians as an Osmanli might be in Russian eyes, he had more nobility and generosity than to tread upon a fallen enemy. His Majesty asked me whether I thought that the Grand Duke could insist upon a public audience, and whether, as some of his Ministers were afraid, he might expose himself to serious consequences if he continued to refuse his consent.

I replied that, considering the state of His Majesty's health, which is far from good, the reasons given by him for declining to receive the Grand Duke in public audience, and with a great retinue, appeared amply sufficient, and I could not believe that his Imperial Highness would take, or threaten, violent measures, now that peace had been concluded, to enforce his demand. My Austrian and French colleagues have also been consulted on this subject, and have expressed their opinion that it would be highly inexpedient for the Sultan to receive the Grand Duke in public audience in the manner proposed by his Imperial Highness.

M. Fournier informs me that he learns that the Grand Duke has stated that he does not himself attach so much importance to a public audience, but that he is acting on instructions from St. Petersburgh. The persons engaged in carrying on the negotiations in this matter have been General Ignatiew and M. Onou. It is very probable that when what has passed is generally known, and perhaps condemned by European public opinion, they will, as usual, deny that there is any foundation whatever for the reports on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 643.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 382.) *Constantinople, March 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Varna, Bourgas, Salonica, and Prevesa, relating to the state of affairs in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 643.

Consul R. Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, March 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have seen a very reliable letter from Rustchuk giving an account of the state of things there.

General Prince Dundakoff Korsakoff is the Governor and Commander-in-chief

of Bulgaria, with General Tsimotlev as Chief of Staff, and they reside and command at Rustchuk.

One Tribunal alone is in operation at Rustchuk, composed of three-quarters Bulgars and one-quarter Mussulmans. The proportion as to the inhabitants is one Bulgar to five Mussulmans.

A municipality is also established in the same proportion.

The police is also similarly composed, and has a Russian Major at its head. The post is entirely Russian, and the telegraph also. Every telegram has to be perused by the Commander, who, if he approves, gives his permission for its transmission.

The communication with Roumania has been established, and the Russians have brought their bridge from Petroshani, below Sistova, and are constructing it between Rustchuk and Giurgevo.

The Municipality have broken open the Ottoman Bank, and have lodged therein some of the Russian employés.

I am told that the Bulgars complain much of the Russians, and from all I hear it is very evident that the Russians look to their own interests alone, and appear to take very little notice of the Bulgars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 643.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, March 11, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 8th instant two Bulgarians, named respectively Detcho and Dino Subinin Oglu, both of Alauskeui, near Bourgas, came to me and mentioned the following facts:—

According to their story, it appears that at Evreniskeui, near the Bulgarian village of Gök Tépé, there are a large number (probably 2,000) of Turkish fugitives entrenched, with their carts, their wives, and their families.

The neighbouring Bulgarians shoot or pillage some of them every day. Five or six of the Turks had come to the village of Gök Tépé imploring the Bulgarians to give them an escort to Bourgas, in order that they might make their submission and give up their arms to the Russians, but their request was refused by the Bulgarians.

My informants (who had lately come from those parts) told me that the Turks were nearly starving, and begged me, as an act of humanity, and to save the lives of Christians and Mussulmans, to mention their statement to the Russian officer commanding here, as the Turks were not only willing, but anxious, to give themselves up to Russian troops, although they very naturally refused to do so to Bulgarians who, in their opinion (and I regret to say in mine also) would spare neither age nor sex, but would do as in too many cases they have been done by. Detcho and Dino also begged me to accompany any Russian detachment that might be sent, as most of the Turks were from villages in a caza with which I am well acquainted.

Wishing to start for the district in question, I to-day applied to Colonel Lenoroff for an escort of a couple of dragoons, but was informed that as the villages I wished to go to were out of the rayon of his command, he was sorry not to be able to comply with my request.

I shall, however, try to go in that direction to-morrow, accompanied by my brother, and taking only Bulgarian guides. When there I shall endeavour to impress upon the Bulgarians that as soon as a Russian force arrives they will suffer condign punishment for any crimes committed by them. On my return I shall have the honour to report to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 643.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Bourgas, March 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, that to-day a Turk named Hadji Osman Aga, of the village of Allaguner Cabout, eight hours to the south of Bourgas, came to me with a petition from a great number of Mussulman fugitives, now blockaded by the Bulgarians in the Fakki district, between the town and Kirk Kilioré.

Hadji Osman arrived here yesterday with five other Turks from the village of Tchendji, under the escort of Christian zaptiehs, to make their submission and beg protection from the newly installed Russian Civil Governor of Bourgas; according to his story, it appears that in the Fakki district the three villages of Tchendji, Evernish-Keui, and Denis-Ova, are now inhabited by Turkish fugitives, whose flight to Constantinople was intercepted by the Russian troops, and he estimates the total number of these fugitives, together with those who are in the mountains, at from 15,000 to 20,000 souls.

The Turks are said to be exposed to constant assaults from the Bulgarians, who kill many of them every day; almost all have been plundered of their money. Hadji Osman informs me that the Bulgarians, after the return of the Turks to their homes, sacked and pillaged (to his knowledge only, not as by any means an exhaustive list), the villages of:—

Allaguner, where they killed 15 persons.				
Karatuk	„	„	10	„
Jumruk-Keui	„	„	8	„
Buyuk Pounar	„	„	5	„
Dulgherli	„	„	4	„

besides outraging a great number of women and girls.

The Russian Governor has promised to send a couple of soldiers to each of the three villages I first mentioned, in order to collect the Mussulmans' arms, but unless the Bulgarians are disarmed at the same time, such a proceeding is likely to be the death-warrant of the Turks.

Hadji Osman, in the name of all the fugitives, begs me to entreat your Excellency to ask the Sublime Porte to send steamers here for their conveyance to Asia, or "to anywhere else, as we can never return to our villages, for the Rayahs would not leave one of us alive," and to provide for their safe escort to Bourgas.

As a steamer is about to start for Constantinople, I have not time to say much more, except that the case appears to me to be one of great urgency. The chief difficulty, next to that of extricating the fugitives from the midst of the Bulgarians, would seem to be the question of food, as the Russian Governor told Hadji Osman that he could not undertake to supply rations, and in a few days these poor people will be absolutely starving.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 643.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

March 9, 1878.

(Extract.)

HIS Excellency the Vali has sent 1,500 soldiers in a steamer on Wednesday last, the 6th instant, against these Greek volunteers and insurgents, who have been joined by the bandits in Mount Olympus, and to-morrow two battalions more will leave with the Commander Asaf Pasha and some field-pieces.

This Asaf has just come down here by railway, with nearly all the troops who were at Usoup and at Mitrovitza, and they are being sent on, some to quell the insurrection in Mount Olympus, and others that in Thessaly on Mount Pelion.

Inclosure 5 in No. 643.

Vice-Consul Suter to Acting Consul Barker.

Larissa, March 7, 1878.

Sir,

THE insurrection continues to spread, and we learn that various bands, which for some time past had been collecting on the sea-shore of the Gulf of Salonica, and were prevented by the deep snow from acting effectively, have now taken the field. These, said to number together over 2,000 insurgents, are reported to have captured the small fortress of Platamona, and to have occupied Litochoro, Karia, Aghios, Dimitri, and various other villages under Mounts Ossa and Olympus, and advancing as far as Rhapsani, and establishing there their head-quarters, will probably enable their securing command of the defile of the Vale of Tempé.

Yesterday, after dark, numerous signal fires of the insurgents on the northern heights were visible from the town of Larissa.

The inhabitants of Dereli and Babaert, the entrance to Tempé from this plain, who are nearly all Turks, came two days ago to apply to the authorities for troops for their protection, and a detachment of Zeibecks irregulars has been sent thither. A battalion of the regular infantry had previously been dispatched to Ellassona, and yesterday a regiment of cavalry marched for Pharsala, but the movement, which was said to have been intended of the force which is now in camp here to Demoko, has not taken place.

Fighting has continued going on about Armyro, apparently always with disadvantage to the Turks. The insurgents have diverted the water-courses, which supplied all the mill streams, and at present no means remain of grinding corn but by hand. Communication from that town with Volo has been intercepted by land, and the Mudir of the district, recently summoned to Larissa, on his way thither could only get to Volo by boat. The Ghegha irregulars, which were employed at Armyro, have all been withdrawn, and are now stationed at Velestino.

The latest accounts of Volo state that the military authorities are making preparation for further early operations against the insurgents on Mount Pelion; and that these can be seen from the town on the hills, entrenching themselves, fortifying their positions, and taking every precaution to repel any attack.

The "Bisson," French corvette, returned from Salonica to Volo the 2nd instant, and another Italian ship of war has joined the "Terribile" there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SUTER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 643.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Prevesa, March 9, 1878.

WITH reference to the dispatch of Redifs from our garrison to Chimara, as reported in my despatch of last week, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the attempt to land them at the port of Santi Quaranta has proved unsuccessful, owing to that port being in the possession of the insurgents; they were therefore brought back as far as Murto, and where it is supposed they were landed.

There being no direct communication between Prevesa and Chimara, it is very difficult, not to say impossible, to obtain reliable information as to the progress of the insurrection in that quarter, and although I deem it my duty to keep your Excellency fully informed of everything I hear on the subject, still I venture to state that, owing to that reason, I find it difficult to vouch for the accuracy of the news that reaches us. According to the last accounts it would seem that the insurgents in Chimara number about 6,000 men, among whom, it is said, are many Turks, with Tzuleka for their leader.

The proximity of Chimara to the Island of Corfu would most likely place Her Majesty's Consul in that island in a better position than I am to obtain more accurate information. However, if I am to judge from the fact that about 200 Christians from the villages of Premeti have been ordered to march (against their will, of course) towards Santi Quaranta, it would seem that the Turkish troops are too few to cope with the insurgents. I must not omit to mention, however, that it is intended that

the above-mentioned Christians should use their own arms, and that they must also cater for themselves, as neither Government arms, pay, nor rations are given to them.

With respect to the other two bands of insurgents at Maka and at Dimario, nothing further has been heard of them.

Nearly all the Bashi-Bazouks have deserted their posts and have returned to their homes. I am also told that many Redifs have followed their example.

The Italian despatch vessel "Antheon," attached to the squadron at Salonica, came here on Wednesday last and is still at Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 644.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 29.*)

(No. 383. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1878.*

AN Armenian, who fills a high post at the Porte, called upon me yesterday, and told me very confidentially that he, and some of his countrymen who were leading members of the Armenian community, were engaged in framing a constitution, or "réglement organique," for the new Armenian "autonomous province," which they intended to submit to the Congress, and which they expected England would support. He said that the Armenians were determined, now that self-government was about to be given to the Christian communities in Europe, to demand the same privilege for themselves in Asia. He saw no difficulty in constructing an Armenian State; but he admitted that there might be some objection to including Cilicia within it, although that province undoubtedly once belonged to the Kingdom of Armenia. He added that if the Congress refused to listen to the just demands of the Armenians, they were resolved to agitate until they could obtain what they required, and if they could not succeed without foreign aid, they would place themselves complely in the hands of Russia, and even prefer annexation to her to remaining under Turkish rule. He ended by asking me whether I would transmit the "Réglement," which he and his friends were preparing, to Her Majesty's Government, and recommend it to them for presentation to the Congress.

I did not give much encouragement to my visitor's scheme for the restoration of the ancient Kingdom of Tigranes, nor did I commit myself to a promise to submit to your Lordship's favourable consideration a constitution for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 645.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 29.*)

(No. 384.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Consul Blunt, giving an account of the state of affairs at Adrianople and in the surrounding country since the Russian occupation. Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Blunt entirely confirms the reports that I have received from other parts of Turkey in Europe now in the possession of the Russians as to the cruel treatment of the unfortunate Mussulman population, and as to the spirit of persecution which prevails, and which appears to be, unhappily, encouraged by the Russian authorities. It is difficult, in the face of such facts as those mentioned by Vice-Consul Calvert (in a despatch from him going home to-day), to remonstrate with the Porte against the conduct of Bashi-Bazouks and irregular Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 645.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, March 18, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following statement of the condition of Adrianople and its neighbourhood consequent upon the Russian occupation, and of the impression thereby produced upon the population of those districts. As I have already had the honour to inform your Excellency, immediately after the entry of the Russian troops, they and the Christian rabble commenced pillaging the town. Whilst the Turkish inhabitants were the chief sufferers, property belonging to non-Bulgarian Christians, and to Jews and foreign subjects, was not spared. From first to last the Russian authorities did not even make the pretence of attempting to check these disorders, or of desiring to punish the offenders.

The town police force organized by the Russians, and which was composed almost wholly of Bulgarians, so far from being a means of preserving order, appears to have taken the lead in the work of plunder.

A house opposite the French Consulate, one of those the Turkish authorities had placed at the disposal of the Consul for the use of French subjects, and which had so far escaped, during a short absence of the Consul, was robbed last week of its furniture and effects by Russian soldiers, conducted to the house by some of these same police.

Most of the property stolen belonged to the Turkish proprietor; but a carriage owned by a French subject, and which had been placed there for safety, was carried off, nor was it recovered without great difficulty.

As regards the rural districts, the Turkish villages and farms were pillaged and burnt, amongst these last being the valuable farmsteads belonging to Sherif Bey, Izzet Bey, Rasim Bey, Husni Bey, and Hadji Ahmet Pasha, all within three or four hours distance from this town. The whole of the live stock was carried off. Some farms belonging to Greeks and to foreign subjects were treated in like manner.

A few days after the conditions of the Treaty of Peace became known at Adrianople I was informed by some Turks, whose accounts were confirmed by foreign merchants in a position to know, that whereas some slight show had at first been made of staying the destruction of Turkish property in the rural districts, as soon as those conditions transpired, and it became probable that the fugitive landowners would return, the work of destroying the farms and everything else belonging to them was resumed and systematically and actively carried out, the Russian authorities remaining entirely passive. The fugitive villagers in the town of Adrianople itself have been in some measure free from molestation, but beyond its limits they are constantly persecuted, and those from the remoter districts especially are waylaid and robbed of their property, and in many instances massacred. Lapse of time has brought no improvement in this respect. A couple of days before I left Adrianople more than seventy ox-carts full of fugitives, on their way from Hafsa, a small town about five hours distant, were set upon by Bulgarians and stripped of everything, even almost to the clothes upon their backs.

All accounts received from the interior agree in asserting that atrocities have been and are still perpetrated by the Bulgarians in the rural districts.

Shortly before the Grand Duke Nicholas left Adrianople, his son went on a shooting expedition in the neighbourhood, and on passing by a village (named, I believe, Tekkó) came upon the bodies of nine Turks—men, women, and children—who had evidently just been massacred.

The young Prince's indignation was aroused at the sight, and he exclaimed, "Here is another piece of work done by those rascally Bulgarians."

He ordered the inhabitants of the village to be seized, and even, it is said, caused corporal punishment to be administered in order to elicit evidence as to the authors of the massacre, but without effect, the Bulgarians denying all knowledge of the matter. I have the above facts from a person who was in the Prince's suite.

My informant also told me that he had heard that all the victims were fugitive peasants returning to their homes from Adrianople under an order issued by the Russian authorities.

As regards the impression produced by the consequences of the Russian occupation, I shall in the first place refer to the feeling expressed on the subject by the most disinterested and unprejudiced section of the inhabitants, namely, the foreign community domiciled for generations at Adrianople, but who have almost all visited the centres of

European civilization. A certain proportion of that community had viewed with satisfaction the prospect of Russian armed intervention. All such persons are now, without exception, the first to condemn the work of the hoped for regeneration of Turkey, and loudly declare their disgust no less than their disappointment at the virtual anarchy, and the insecurity of life and property which have resulted from the realization of their wishes.

Among Greeks opinion is unanimous, and those of the educated class speak openly against the Russians.

They are greatly irritated at the attempt which has been made to include Adrianople as well as Philippopoli, and other districts which they claim as Greek, within the projected Bulgarian Principality.

More than one endeavour has been made to induce the Greek Archbishop to allow Bulgarian priests to officiate in the Greek Church, but the Metropolitan has uniformly and successfully resisted those attempts. In the meanwhile the Russians have eliminated the Greek language to which they had at first accorded a place along with Russian, Bulgarian, and Turkish, in matters of local administration, and this has given great offence.

The Bulgarians, although sufficiently numerous in the rural districts, are but a minority of the Christian population of the town; and the notables of the community have not hitherto taken a prominant part in local affairs. Sensible and thoughtful Bulgarians appear to doubt the advantageous results to their nation which Sclavophils anticipated from the war just concluded. They do not dissemble the obvious fact that the country at large will not recover for many a year to come the prosperity which it had attained since the Crimean War, and especially since the construction of the Roumelian Railway.

Some of the persons in question say that the Bulgarian people are not prepared for the self-government which is about to be thrust upon them, and that proper administrative materials are not to be found among the "Tchorbajies," which class, when once they get power into their hands, will wield it for their own selfish ends rather than for the good of the country.

My interlocutors did not hesitate to predict that many Bulgarians, to escape the rapacity of their "Tchorbajies" and the abuses of the new form of government, will eventually remove into the contiguous Turkish provinces. They are also sensible of the discredit which has been brought upon their nation by the horrible atrocities committed during the late campaign. They, however, throw the chief responsibility of these misdeeds upon the Russian authorities, who had the power to prevent them. Other persons besides myself have heard from various quarters remarks to the same purport as the above.

As regards Turkish feeling on the subject, the fugitives from the country comprised within the proposed limits of the future Bulgaria declare that even if they be allowed to return to their destroyed homes, it will scarcely be possible for them to do so with safety in the face of the bitter hostility and spirit of persecution which have been displayed towards them by the Bulgarians, with the tacit connivance of the Russians.

The Turks can only explain the existence of this state of things by a determination on the part of the Bulgarians and Russians to render their position under Christian autonomy insupportable. Those Turks who are old enough to remember the war of 1820 contrast the forbearance and orderly conduct of the Russian army at that period with the barbarity which has disgraced it during the present campaign.

The lives and property of non-combatants were in the former war respected, very few houses being destroyed, nor did the inhabitants of a single village find it necessary to seek safety in flight.

This circumstance confirms the poor refugees in the belief that the contrary state of things now prevailing is dictated by a scarcely disguised policy of expulsion of the Mussulman population from the so-called Christian provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 616.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March 29.*)

(No. 387.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting despatch from Captain Fife relating to the feelings of the Greek population of the district of Gallipoli towards the Russians and the Turks, which I venture to recommend to your Lordship's notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 616.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Gallipoli, March 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following review of the changes in feeling of the Greeks in this neighbourhood during the present war, and their probable readiness to aid operations by a foreign Power against the Russians.

Before the war the Greeks were rich and prosperous in the Gallipoli Peninsula and adjacent districts; their villages, houses, farms, and merchandize show this conclusively. They were not subject to the conscription, and consequently increased rapidly in numbers. This is all very favourable to the Turkish Government, judging of the advantages it secured to its Christian subjects by the practical test of results. The Turks had to support the blood-tax of conscription, and the drain of war on their population; they consequently diminished in numbers. The inevitable consequence of this we have already seen in the recent Decrees, making service in the army compulsory on the Christians, at the same time giving them full civil rights and privileges. Thus the Eastern Question, if left to time and natural causes, would have solved itself peacefully and completely.

The Turkish, like most other systems of Government in the East, was not perfect; its faults were rather those of omission than of commission, and its very weakness caused it to allow much more real freedom to all its subjects than is enjoyed by the peasantry of Russia for instance. I judge from a short visit paid two years ago to that country, and from all other accounts. Thus the Russian peasant is subject to the conscription, and may be sent to serve in Central Asia or Siberia, while the subject Christian races of Turkey remained at home undisturbed. The police espionage and rule in Russia is also unknown in Turkey during peace. I have seen a little of both peoples and systems of Government, and would much rather have been a Christian subject of the Porte than a peasant in Russia, judging from the point of view of either.

At the beginning of the war the Greeks in this neighbourhood wished success to the Turks, appreciating the great and real advantages they enjoyed under the existing system. After a while, however, heavy taxes were exacted from them to enable Turkey to carry on the war, and the heavier to compensate to some extent for the Christians being exempt from service in the armies; many of their carts, oxen, and horses were necessarily taken for the transport services without payment, and the men were compelled to work at times to construct fortifications. The war having commenced, bands of Circassians passed through from Asia to join the armies, and committed robberies along their line of march, sometimes using violence if the villagers opposed their plundering. These hardships, though directly caused by the war, and slight compared to those of military service which their Turkish fellow-subjects were undergoing, appear to have turned the scale of feeling against the Turks, and when the Russians achieved their crowning successes and advanced rapidly southward, the tide set more strongly in favour of the apparently irresistible invaders, who were not only the co-religionists of the Greeks, but were believed to be especially anxious to transfer to them the governing power. The Russians were received and welcomed in this spirit.

As soon as they arrived the Russians pursued the same course towards the inhabitants as they had done the previous year in the Tunja Valley and other parts of the country. They disarmed the Mahommedans and transferred the weapons to the Christians. The Cossacks then led the Greeks to the Turkish farms and villages, inciting them to destroy the property of the Mahommedans, commencing with that

of the refugees. The Cossacks looked on, but took no active part in these operations, which were attended with the occasional murder of Turks of both sexes and all ages, and the frequent rape of the women. The Cossacks, however, themselves committed similar outrages on other occasions. The strong religious fanaticism of the Greeks became aroused. A bitter feeling between them and the Turks was stirred up, where before the war all had been friendship and goodwill. A source of future trouble was thus prepared, which may serve the Russians as a pretext for further interference in the affairs of the country. Great part of the Mahommedan population which had not already fled was driven away by this state of affairs.

Having appropriated all the provisions and useful property of the Turks, the Russians proceeded to a similar course with regard to the Greek population, some of the houses belonging to whom were even burnt. The Russian officers spoke openly against Hellenism, declaring that Sclav and Greek interests were opposed. The feeling of the Greeks in the occupied districts entirely changed in consequence of all this, and is now most unfavourable to the Russians. In the words of a Greek villager, "They had said ten prayers for the Russians to come, and now said a hundred for them to go away again." The feeling of the Greeks in the Gallipoli Peninsula naturally changed in the same way, on their hearing of the conduct and policy of the Russians.

The Greeks now wish that the old régime had not been disturbed by the war, but that reforms in the Government had been effected, such as may be expected to be gradually brought about by the Parliament.

In Turkey the Mahommedan religion and fanaticism, being opposed to reform, are the chief obstacles to be dealt with; but even they have been overcome by the force of circumstances, the relative increase of the Christian population, &c., having been the cause of the recent decrees.

The country is very much priestridden; some of the more intelligent Turks have become well aware of this. The Chief of the Dervishes in Gallipoli has more influence with the inhabitants than the Governor himself. The fact that in European Turkey fanaticism is less powerful than in Asia, and that I can even observe a difference in this respect between the neighbourhood of the Balkans and the district of Gallipoli, shows that time and circumstances have the power to remove it.

The Greeks would favour any attempt made by another foreign Power to drive the Russians out of the occupied districts, and would aid it openly, if likely to succeed, especially if the object assigned were to prevent the Russians from permanently occupying the country, and if the antagonism of Greek and Sclav interests were sufficiently insisted on, and protection promised to the Greeks from the vengeance of the Turks should they reoccupy the country. The Greeks would be more particularly ready to aid England or France in such an enterprise, having great trust in their policy, and especially in the friendliness of the former Power.

Since the Greeks have reason to fear that they may all be held accountable by the Turks for the recent conduct of the worst portion of the former, urged on by the Cossacks in the occupied districts, they would dread being left again solely at the mercy of the Turks, unless their safety were assured in some manner; and for the same reason they would probably take little part on either side, if an attempt were made by Turkish troops alone to drive out the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain*,
Military Attaché.

No. 647.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 391. Confidential.)
Constantinople, March 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum which has been sent to me by a person who is perfectly well acquainted with all that is going on here, and from whom I have frequently received very trustworthy and accurate information.

The statement that he makes as to the present position of affairs between Russia and Turkey is not, perhaps, unworthy of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 647.

Memorandum.

LES renseignements suivants peuvent être considérés comme parfaitement authentiques:—

"Réouf Pacha avait télégraphié de St. Pétersbourg qu'il rendra compte verbalement de sa mission. Il avait emporté par écrit certaines demandes de concessions que le Sultan avait d'autant droit d'espérer de les voir accepter que le Grand Duc Nicolas avait promis de les appuyer. Or, la dépêche de Réouf ferait présenter que le Czar aurait imposé certaines conditions à l'acceptation des dites demandes. Il ressort de ce la supposition que cette condition serait une alliance offensive et défensive entre la Turquie et la Russie en cas de complications entre cette dernière et l'Angleterre.

"On croit que Réouf et même Osman auraient été gagnés à cette alliance. Après leur retour la politique à adopter sera discutée.

"Bien que la Turquie paraisse militairement anéantie, il n'en est pas moins incontestable qu'il y existe un fort parti favorable à une reprise des hostilités contre la Russie dans le cas où l'Angleterre déclarerait la guerre à cette dernière Puissance.

"La Porte a reçu de nombreux rapports constatant tous que moralement et matériellement l'armée Russe se trouve dans des conditions qui ne lui permettraient pas de nouveaux efforts.

Moralement, elle se trouve dans un affaissement complet. Chaque officier aspire au retour en Russie, et ne se cache pas pour exprimer librement son désir de ne pas avoir de guerre avec l'Angleterre.

Matériellement, l'armée Russe manque de moyens de transport, d'armes, de vivres qu'elle ne trouve que dans le pays déjà presque épuisé, par suite des immenses difficultés du ravitaillement par le dehors.

Ce sont ces considérations qui expliquent l'attitude modérée du Grand Duc Nicolas dans la question de la visite au Sultan.

Une visite rendu hier à la Porte par Nélidoff a prouvé encore l'intention de la Russie de ménager la Turquie. Ce diplomate a exprimé avec un langage doucoux et affable son étonnement de l'occupation de Buyukdéré par les troupes Turques, alors que la Russie n'aurait songé à forcer le passage en présence du refus par écrit de la Porte.

No. 648.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 392.)
Constantinople, March 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lordship, copy of a despatch from Mr. Longworth relative to the excesses lately committed by irregular troops in Thessaly. I have not thought it necessary to forward to your Lordship the inclosures mentioned in Mr. Longworth's despatch, as they are merely lists, in Greek, of losses sustained in certain villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 648.

Mr. Longworth to Mr. Layard.

Larissa, March 10, 1878.

Sir,

IN pursuance of your Excellency's instructions, I have the honour to report upon the excesses lately committed in Thessaly by the Turkish irregular troops.

At the villages of Vlacholivadoy, Kokinoplos, Charichani, Turnovo, Anbelákia, &c., I have questioned the principal sufferers and verified their assertions by Mahommedan witnesses. I have spoken on the subject to the authorities of those parts, and also to Salih Bey, Riza Bey, and Abdul Rahman Agha, the Chiefs of the irregular troops. The result of these inquiries tend to confirm, more or less, the principal statements of pillage, violence, and extortion, contained in the Memorandum, letters, and extracts of newspapers inclosed in your Excellency's instructions of the 23rd November, 1877.

As an illustration of the amount of privations inflicted on the Christians, it would be well to take a view of "Vlacholivádo," a village comparatively prosperous.

It is a small Vlach town of 3,000 souls, situated on the southern slope of Mount Cambunion. The neighbourhood is mountainous, rocky, and barren, the soil scarcely yielding sufficient produce to meet the demands of the inhabitants. The principal occupation is the rearing of cattle, sheep, and goats, and the staple articles of trade are cheese, butter, and wool.

The regular annual taxes are:—

	Piastres.
On Land and trade	17,000
Vine and cereal	30,000
Alcohol and wine	5,000
Sheep and goats	100,000
Exemption from army	30,000
Total	182,000

The following are the extra exactions of last year:—

	Piastres.
Land, sheep, and goat taxes	25,000
Arms for troops	13,000
Clothing for troops	5,000
Coverlets for Zeibecks	1,500
Telegraph posts	3,000
Total	52,500

Besides the losses occasioned by the irregular troops, amounting to—

	Piastres.
In Property	384,000
In Cash	106,000
Total	490,000

We therefore find that the community paid, in the course of last year, the sum of 724,500 piastres, which must fall very heavy on a village, the richer inhabitants of which only earn an income of from 100*l.* to 200*l.* I inclose herein copies of Greek lists of losses sustained by the five villages that have suffered most from the irregularities of the Bashi-Bazouks. They were given to me by the people of Vlacholivado, Kokinoplos, Charichani, Turnovo, and Ambelakia.

The origin of these troubles is difficult to ascertain, but it appears that in the beginning of August last the leading members of the Mussulman community at Larissa, dreading a revolt of the Christians in Thessaly and an invasion from Greece, sent a deputation to the Porte to make known their fears and demand reinforcements.

The Turkish Government subsequently, on the simultaneous appearance in August of armed bands of Greeks in the districts of Agia and Pharsala, took these demands into consideration, and called forth into Thessaly irregular Mussulman levies of Ghegas, Toskas, and Zeibecks.

To this order, given, as it is said, in a hasty and indiscriminate manner, is chiefly attributed the outrages of the irregular troops—outrages which I am assured would not have occurred had the Government sent responsible persons to appoint the officers and recruit the men. As it was, the fierce, the lawless, and the needy from among the warlike Ghega tribes of Northern Albania poured into Thessaly. They descended their country in four detachments, plundering the villages of Mount Cambunion, Olympus, and Ossa.

The first division was simply a large gang of marauders, without an acknowledged leader. They amassed a quantity of booty, and returned to the fastnesses of their native mountains.

The second, third, and fourth came respectively under the Chieftainships of Salih Bey, Riza Bey, and Abdul-Rahman Agha. The previous entire force was 5,600 men, but they have since been reduced in number by gradual desertion to less than 1,000.

Whilst these predatory soldiers were ravaging the country to the north, 1,200 Zeibecks, under Mahmoud Effendi, landed at Volo. These brutally-depraved men, let loose, as they were, on the inhabitants of Turnovo and the villages of Ossa and Pelion, gave vent to their worst passions, and plunged many a respectable family into deep grief and shame. Happily there are only a few of them now left at large, for many have been sent home sick, and the greater part of the rest are either killed or

wounded. We next come to the irregular levies, designated as the Toskas, or Southern Albanians, in command of Delian Bey and Hassan Agha. The Toska Arnauts belong to a race half Greek and half Albanian, and are reputed to be very brave, industrious, and intelligent.

Two thousand of them came into Thessaly and cantoned in the districts of Pharsala, Tricala, and Karditza, where they indulged their rapacious propensities without even distinguishing race or creed. In their recent encounters with the insurgents most of them have been destroyed, and the remnant is now estimated at about 500 men.

Among the Ghega and Toska auxiliary troops a great number of Coguiars (Turks) joined and intermixed with them during their acts of depredation. These rabbles—the refuse of towns and villages—formed in reality the principal element of mischief, impelled forward by mad fanaticism or hatred, cupidity or lust.

Many of their crimes have most unjustly been imputed to the irregular soldiers.

The Ghegas, for example, who were purely addicted to plunder (though they beat and tortured in the hope of extorting money or discovering hidden treasures) are accused of having committed rape and wanton murder, as proof of which there is not one authentic case. That such crimes were perpetrated is perfectly true, but it is very evident that the Coguiars were the authors, and not the Ghegas.

The former indifference and laxity of the civil and military authorities in Thessaly during the disorders is very remarkable. They feigned complete ignorance of what was going on, and, calling the reports that reached them fictitious, they allowed outrages to occur without the slightest interruption and with the greatest impunity. In fact, I am assured that no irregulars had been punished, and no stolen property had been restored previous to my arrival at Larissa. Since then to the present day Mouhliss Pasha, the Commander of the forces in Thessaly, has shown great energy and determination in endeavouring to bring these troops into proper discipline.

But the task is difficult and almost hopeless, for the Bashi-Bazouks, in spite of all efforts, still continue to gather *plutchka*, or free booty, as a substitute for their arrears in pay.

The result of all this is that the insurgents, swarming on every side, are beginning to retaliate upon the Mahommedan population, which raises the momentous question of how the Mussulmans of the villages should be protected from the acts of the insurgents and the Christians of towns from the fury of the Mussulman sufferers who have deserted their homes and have crowded into towns.

Such being the state of affairs here now, it may at any moment burst out into terrible consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

No. 649.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. .)
My Lord, *Smyrna, March* 20, 1878.

THE statement that by the Articles of Peace concluded between Russia and Turkey Batoum, Kars, and Bayazid are to be ceded to the former Power, induces me to take the liberty of making some remarks on the importance of this acquisition to Russia, and its consequences to us.

That Russia would indemnify herself for war-losses by acquisitions in Asia Minor has been for some time looked upon as certain in England, and, as if to prepare people's minds to receive with indifference such a measure, several public journals and some of our public men have been at much pains to point out that in Asia Minor we possess no interests which the advance of Russia could affect.

Regarding the question from a direct point of view, these journals and these men may be quite right, the conquest of a portion of Armenia is but the acquisition of a small portion of territory, very far removed from our Indian possessions, which cannot facilitate an advance towards our Indian frontier. Persia would have to be absorbed before the Russians could take advantage of their hold upon Armenia, and before such absorption could be effected many years would pass during which circumstances would possibly be so changed, events would have so altered relative positions, that the conquests of to-day would no longer be of use in giving facilities.

This may or may not be a correct appreciation of the future. In my humble

opinion it is a very fallacious one if the approach of the dominion of the Czar to India is a real source of trouble and danger to our Indian Empire.

The readiness of Russia to return Erzeroum to the Turks may appear to many as an act of disinterested generosity, clearly proving that she has no wish or intention to take advantage of her position to touch in any way our interests. Such is not, however, the case, and, I am persuaded, Russia is perfectly aware that, while she does not lose an inch of vantage ground by returning Erzeroum, she gains a great deal in calming public opinion by giving to the party advocating her cause an apparently brilliant act of disinterestedness to work upon.

Russia knows that her hold on Persia does not depend on her hold on Erzeroum; the possession of that town is immaterial to her, as she holds Persia within her grasp quite as effectually by taking the Soghanlee range of mountains as her future frontier. The Shah, by this change, must become the vassal of the Czar; resistance to his will could be speedily punished by invasion at any point from Khiva to the Soghanlee, that is, from any point on three sides of the Shah's territories.

The possession of Bayazid gives another and most important power to Russia over Persia—it gives to Russia the entire control of the foreign trade of Persia. Persia now can only carry on her foreign trade either with the consent of Russia, or by a route so circuitous as to make it impossible.

The possession of the Soghanlee Mountains gives these advantages to Russia; could the possession of Erzeroum give more? It is hardly possible to suppose so, consequently Russia can well afford to make show of fallacious disinterestedness or generosity, by giving back to the Sultan a town which has had its importance and value completely taken away from it.

There is, however, in the success of Russia in Asia Minor, a real danger to us—a danger which will make itself but too soon, it is to be feared, felt, which will give us much trouble, and which to overcome will be very costly.

The Asiatic understands but one kind of diplomacy, the diplomacy of gunpowder; his mind cannot understand or appreciate the subtleties of moral influences; it can only take in and be overawed by physical force. He learned to respect and to dread England through the terror inspired by her guns; she was to him the first power in the world, because her soldiers had swept all before them, and so long as she sustained her military supremacy, so long did she retain his respect. The Russo-Turkish war has put an end to this. In the Asiatic mind the neutrality of England did not find its true definition. He could not believe that the nation which claimed to be supreme in Asia, which claimed to be the friend and protector of Turkey, would permit another nation to come in and work her will in Asia, if she were strong enough to prevent it; he could not understand as motives, change of policy, deviation of interests attending circumstances, but he understands that the force of arms has brought Russia to be the arbiter of Turkey's fate, that England has not moved to help her protegé, and that Russia's soldiers now hold the reins in Asia Minor and Central Asia, and he concludes that England can no longer oppose Russia, that a Power superior to her's has come to the front, and that to that Power he must in future pay respect, and yield obedience. This feeling, this belief, will grow rapidly in Asia, and will soon produce results which will bring danger and difficulty to us.

Your Lordship will, I trust, pardon my freedom of expression, my interests in pending questions based on a study of them on the ground itself, will, I hope, plead for me should I have exceeded the limits of discretion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 650.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 203. Secret.)

Paris, March 28, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON spoke to me yesterday at some length on the present crisis.

His Excellency said that the position of affairs was certainly very precarious. He felt that the hopes of a Congress assembling at an early date were becoming fainter, and that, if the crisis was prolonged, a stray shot about the Bosphorus or Gallipoli might be the commencement of another war. Still, on the other hand, there might be some advantage in the adjournment, for a little, of the Congress. At the present moment Russia seemed really drunk with success; he had even information that there were people in St. Petersburgh who went so far as to declare that the Treaty of San Stefano was a disgrace to Russia, and in no measured words to throw upon Prince Gortchakow the blame of accepting such poor terms for his country. This was, of course, absurd. But he thought that it would be very dangerous for Russia to allow the present dead-lock to continue. It was well known that she was making immense efforts in the way of military preparations, and if the present severe strain upon her continued, she might well come near her ruin. She might, therefore, be brought to think that her only safety would be in a Congress, and thus become inclined to abate some of her exaggerated pretensions. She would see that there was danger to her in having no European sanction at all.

With regard to a war between Russia and England, his Excellency remarked that he did not quite share the opinion of those who likened it to a fight between a dog and a fish. It was true, he allowed, that Great Britain was invulnerable at home, and that it would be difficult for her to get at Russia on land; but again he adverted to the financial difficulty with which the latter was manifestly threatened, and he argued that, whereas England could carry on such a war for years without being sensibly affected by it, that war would be simply ruin to Russia. Nor did he agree with those who considered that an attack by the latter Power upon India was likely to be successful.

But, passing from this subject, M. Waddington went on to speak of matters connected with the Congress. Supposing, he observed, the Congress were to meet. He confessed, in answer to an inquiry from me, that the terms exacted by Russia from the Porte were in some respects inadmissible. He had been, as he had always told me, favourable to the idea of a Congress; he was, as a Frenchman, ready to sacrifice a certain amount of "amour propre," and go calmly and quietly to Berlin to take part in the deliberations. But if it was intended to hold a Congress merely for the purpose of giving a European sanction to the entire Treaty of San Stefano, he had no desire to participate in it, and he had been thinking what propositions might be brought forward with a view to abate the pretensions of Russia. That Power, he continued, had declared that she went to war with Turkey not to acquire territory. But the result of the war was that Russia takes territory in Armenia, and claims Roumanian Bessarabia. Again she had declared that her object was to better the condition of certain Christians, mostly her co-religionists, in whom she took great interest. Well, we, *i.e.* other nations, were interested in other Christians, and we must take up their cause. There were the Greeks, for instance, and there were Roman Catholics in Albania. Speaking academically and in the broadest manner, he thought it would have been possible to propose at the Congress that the new Bulgaria, as defined by the Treaty of San Stefano, should be reduced, say one-half, that the seaboard along the Ægean, with a good strip of territory, should be retained by the Turks, and that Thessaly and Epirus, and a little more might, perhaps, be given to Greece. Of course, this was only a very rough general idea, which France herself could not bring forward, but it had struck him that some such proposal was feasible.

I should add that, in the course of our conversation, M. Waddington let drop that Prince Orloff having lately hinted to him that the Congress might be held without England, he had replied to the Prince that, for his part, he considered this to be impossible, and that France had only accepted the proposal for a Congress on condition that all the other Powers who were to compose it should attend.

We proceeded to talk about the language of the French press, which has certainly of late in some instances come very much round to the side of England.

M. Waddington said that this was remarkable. Three of the best Republican papers, the "Journal des Débats," the "Temps," and the "République Française," were now all praising the firm attitude assumed by England. His Excellency particularly instanced the series of vigorous articles which have been published of late almost daily by the "Journal des Débats," a paper which had previously not been sparing in its strictures upon England's inaction. It had been insinuated, M. Waddington continued, that newspapers had been inspired by the Government to write articles in favour of England, but that was false. He assured me that he had no such dealings with the press, that no official articles were communicated by him to any paper. And as he was equally sure that the British Embassy did not meddle with the press in Paris, it was quite certain that this feeling on the part of most of the papers was a spontaneous one. And it was not confined to those of a Republican colour; the Catholic papers were not favourable to a Russian Protectorate, for the Russians were schismatics in the eyes of the Roman Catholics; and the Bonapartist

papers were not likely to approve the proceedings of a Power who was engaged in tearing up the Treaty of 1856.

I report to your Lordship the above remarks of M. Waddington, because, although no Congress may meet at Berlin, it is interesting to know that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs does not by any means endorse the Treaty of San Stefano as a whole, and that, if there should be a Congress, he shows a decided inclination, not indeed to take the initiative, but to support other Powers, whose policy it might be to oppose the exaggerated pretensions of Russia.

As our conversation was of the most private and confidential nature, and as M. Waddington shares, as he has told me, that dread of the Blue Books laid before the English Parliament, which is so prevalent amongst continental diplomatists, I am obliged to mark this despatch "Secret," and must beg your Lordship to be kind enough to consider it as such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 651.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 29.)

Admiralty, March 29, 1878.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Rear-Admiral Sir J. E. Commerell, at Gallipoli, dated the 28th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 651.

Rear-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Gallipoli, March 28, 1878, 1·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

"RUBY" has returned from Volo. She could render no assistance to any fugitives.

Supposed telegram from Italian Vice-Consul was a forgery.

No. 652.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

Constantinople, March 29, 1878.

(No. 337.)
(Telegraphic.)

MANY of the English subjects are inquiring what protection could be afforded to them in case of Russian army occupying Constantinople, in anticipation of possibility of war with England.

I have reason to believe that the British Embassy and Consulate would be seized; and a large amount of property might be destroyed in them.

It might be desirable to ask American Minister to accept protectorate of British subjects and property; and, in the event of approval of Her Majesty's Government, I could ask him to occupy British Embassy, as Prince Reuss did Russian at Buyukderé.

There are a very large number of British families here, who have no means of getting away, and who would therefore absolutely require protection.

No. 653.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 11. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, March 29, 1878, 10·25 A.M.

PRINCE ORLOFF sounded Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday as to his appreciation of the Treaty, attitude of England, and her fleet remaining in the Sea of Marmora.

Minister for Foreign Affairs was obliged to decline entering into such questions, but repeated his desire for a Congress, though he did not see how he could further one now.

No. 654.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, March 29, 1878, 1 P.M.

COUNT CORTI having consulted his colleagues, confirms the answer he gave me yesterday respecting the understanding with Her Majesty's Government relative to the Mediterranean and Black Sea interests, as reported in my telegram No. 17.

No. 655.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 29.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Bucharest, March 29, 1878.

I AM informed that orders have been received from the Grand Duke not to dismiss field transport, and, if possible, to contract for 10,000 additional carts.

No. 656.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Sandwith.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 29, 1878, 5·5 P.M.

IS report true that hostilities have recommenced in Crete?

No. 657.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 29, 1877, 5·50 P.M.

As it appears that fugitives on coast of Thessaly are not in need of immediate assistance, Her Majesty's ship "Devastation" will return to Besika Bay.

No. 658.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, March 29, 1878, 6·10 P.M.

CAPTAIN of "Devastation" reported to Admiralty on 26th that Governor had assured him that he had ordered fugitives to be well treated, and lodged in adjacent villages, but could not allow them to be brought to Salonica, as town is full of troops and irregulars, and typhus and small-pox are prevalent.

No. 659.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 68.) *Foreign Office, March* 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that the Admiralty have informed me that the captain of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation" telegraphs, under date of the 26th instant, that he has received assurances that orders have been sent to the Turkish authorities to treat the fugitives in Thessaly well, and to lodge them in adjacent villages, but that the Governor, in view of the fact that Salonica is full of troops and irregulars, and that typhus and small-pox are raging there, objects to the fugitives being brought to that town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 660.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 230.) *Rome, March* 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy and translation of the reply which I have received from the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the note which I addressed to his Excellency, communicating the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the subject of the representation of Greece at the Congress, as reported in my despatch No. 207 of the 14th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 660.

Signor Tornielli to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.) *Rome, March* 18, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HASTEN to thank your Excellency for your note of the 14th instant informing me of the opinion of the Government of the Queen respecting the representation of Greece at the Congress.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TORNIELLI.

No. 661.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 231.) *Rome, March* 26, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 201 of the 12th instant, inclosing copy of a note which, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I addressed to M. Depretis communicating the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the proposal made by Count Beust that a Congress should be convened at Berlin, instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden, I have now the honour to inclose copy and translation of the reply which I have received from his Excellency to that note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 661.

Signor Tornielli to Sir A. Paget.

(Translation.) *Rome, March* 18, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE received the note from your Excellency, in which, in accordance with the instructions of your Government, you were good enough to communicate copy of

the answer given to the Earl of Derby to the note in which the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador in London proposed the reunion of a Congress at Berlin instead of a Conference at Baden-Baden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. TORNIELLI.

No. 662.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 234.)

My Lord, *Rome, March* 27, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a copy of the Treaty of San Stefano was officially delivered to M. Cairoli, Minister for Foreign Affairs *ad interim*, on Monday last, the 25th instant, by the Russian Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 663.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 236.)

My Lord, *Rome, March* 27, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 232 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation taken from the "Italie" of the speech delivered in the Chamber of Deputies yesterday by the President of the Council.

The paragraph relating to foreign affairs, which I have marked with red pencil, records that Italy, which entertains friendly relations with all the Powers, will know how to cause herself to be respected; that while aspiring to the blessings of peace, the Government cannot but consider as useful the continuation of the reorganization of the army began by the preceding Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 663.

Extract from "L'Italie."

Chambre des Députés.—Séance du 26 Mars.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure 15, avec les formalités d'usage.

Plus de 350 Députés sont présents; les tribunes sont encombrées.

M. Maurogonato, Vice-Président, occupe le fauteuil de la Présidence.

M. Pissavini, Secrétaire, donne lecture du procès-verbal de la séance précédente, qui est approuvé.

MM. Saladini, Cavalletto, Guarini et autres demandent l'urgence pour quelques pétitions.

Plusieurs congés sont accordés.

M. le Président invite l'Honorable Barrili à lire l'adresse en réponse au discours de la couronne.

M. Barrili donne lecture de l'adresse, qui est applaudie par la Chambre et les Tribunes.

M. le Président tire au sort les noms des Députés qui doivent composer la Commission chargée de présenter l'adresse au Roi.

La Commission est composée de MM. Pericoli Pietro, Frenfanelli, Parenzo, Compans, Canzi, Della Croce, Umana, Trompeo, et Randaccio.

A deux heures, tous les Ministres, à l'exception du Comte Corti, entrent dans l'enceinte et prennent place au banc des Ministres.

M. Cairoli, Président du Conseil, annonce qu'à la suite de la démission du Cabinet présidé par M. Depretis, Sa Majesté le Roi l'ayant chargé de la formation du nouveau Ministère, il présente ses collègues à la Chambre.

M. Cairoli prononce ensuite le discours suivant :—

Honorés de la confiance de Sa Majesté, nous nous sentons le devoir de nous présenter devant vous, non avec un programme d'idées, mais avec un résumé précis des promesses que nous voulons accomplir dans la présente session, à moins qu'il ne nous manque l'encouragement, qui, il y a quelque jours, s'est révélé à moi, par un vote qui sera le plus cher souvenir de ma vie.

En ce qui concerne la politique intérieure qui a pour phare le statut, nous tâcherons d'en conserver intact le prestige, évitant les actes arbitraires et les interprétations restrictives. L'urne électorale, suprême garantie des institutions réprésentatives, sera toujours par nous scrupuleusement respectée. (Applaudissements.)

Nous ne ferons pas de déclarations superflues sur la politique étrangère, sujet très-délicat qui domine les âmes et préoccupe le monde entier. Le moment est grave; mais l'Italie, qui entretient des relations amicales avec toutes les Puissances, saura se faire respecter. Tout en aspirant aux bienfaits d'une paix sûre, nous ne pouvons pas cependant considérer comme inutile la continuation de la réorganisation de notre vaillante armée, commencée par les Ministres précédents. Vous ne voudrez pas non plus que l'œuvre entreprise pour la mettre à la hauteur de ses glorieuses traditions soit interrompue. (Bien.)

Quant à la question très-grave des chemins de fer, la force des circonstances vous indique la solution la plus naturelle.

Cependant, en reconnaissant les intentions du Ministère précédent qui présentait un ensemble de Conventions depuis longtemps pendantes et récemment stipulées, nous rappelons que, même avant la crise, tout le monde voyait que le temps manquait pour les discuter et on manifestait l'opportunité de séparer les Conventions pour l'exploitation des Conventions pour les constructions. Pour résoudre le mieux possible le problème important des chemins de fer, nous vous proposerons la nomination d'une Commission d'Enquête, qui pourra indiquer les remèdes capables de sauvegarder tous les intérêts qui touchent à cette question. Nous vous proposerons également un projet de loi pour pourvoir à l'exploitation provisoire des lignes de la Haute-Italie. Nous vous proposerons en outre un projet pour les constructions destinées à relier les provinces de l'Italie et à faciliter les communications.

Avec les constructions destinées à compléter notre réseau d'Aoste à Licata, nous jouirons des avantages du perfectionnement des voies et qui rendront plus solide l'unité de l'Italie. Pour supporter ces dépenses l'Honorable Ministre des Finances vous indiquera les moyens, proposés déjà par les Ministères précédents, sans recourir à des mesures exceptionnelles.

Il vous exposera ensuite la situation financière, mais je puis dès maintenant vous exprimer la conviction que l'équilibre que nous avons obtenu après tant d'efforts et de sacrifices n'est pas menacé, malgré l'augmentation des dépenses imprévues, et que nous pourrons obtenir le résultat promis par le Roi et attendu impatiemment par la nation.

Abolir entièrement les impôts qui frappent le prolétaire dans les premières nécessités de la vie et produisent de justes mécontentements, tel est le but que nous poursuivrons avec toute la vigueur de la volonté et de la conscience. (Bien.)

Nous voudrions pouvoir au plus tôt supprimer ce qui disparut d'abord à l'aube des triomphes nationaux, pour réapparaître ensuite dans les angoisses des finances menacées; mais puisque après tant de douloureuses péripéties les finances sont presque arrivées au port, nous ne les rejetterons pas au milieu des écueils d'une mer en tempête, en employant des moyens radicaux, qui inspirés par la pitié, mais non refrénés par la prudence, feraient escompter un soulagement momentané par de nouvelles et graves douleurs. C'est pourquoi nous nous bornerons pour le moment à réduire les impôts les plus lourds. Nous ne pouvons pas encore préciser les dispositions du projet, mais nous vous promettons cependant qu'il vous sera présenté au plus tôt, afin qu'il soit discuté dans la présente Session.

L'objectif vers lequel nous tendons dans l'intérêt des classes ouvrières nous impose le devoir de donner l'impulsion nécessaire à l'enquête agricole, déjà commencée, et de coopérer également à l'enquête sur les grèves, décrétée par nos prédécesseurs et dont la Commission Parlementaire s'est sérieusement occupée. Pour les mêmes considérations et dans le même but nous vous presenterons un projet réclamé depuis longtemps par la voix impérieuse de la charité afin de réglementer, en nous aidant des dispositions législatives des autres pays, le travail des enfants dans les fabriques et empêcher que l'égoïsme ne spécule sur la faim, et ne dispose de l'instrument le plus fragile que le travail puisse employer, c'est-à-dire de l'enfance, sur laquelle la société doit veiller et dont elle doit sauvegarder les intérêts.

Notre idéal est donc la transformation du système tributaire, conformément aux principes les plus sages; pour surmonter les obstacles qui s'opposeront à nos travaux, nous les simplifierons en les dépouillant de l'enveloppe bureaucratique qui en paralyse l'action. Mais, si cette réforme est une de nos plus vives aspirations, nous ne voulons pas la renvoyer indéfiniment; nous nous en occuperons dans cette Session même, qui sera certainement mise à profit pour discuter les projets urgents, parmi lesquels peuvent être classées la loi communale et la loi provinciale.

La session ne pourra pas non plus être close sans que la réforme si souvent promise par le pouvoir exécutif, demandée avec tant d'insistance par l'opinion publique et énoncée dans le discours du trône, ne soit définitivement réalisée.

La réforme électorale, inscrite sur le drapeau de la gauche, est pour nous un engagement d'honneur. Pour mettre d'accord le droit de voter, sur lequel est fondée la personnalité politique du citoyen, avec notre droit public, il faut baser ce droit non pas exclusivement sur le cens, mais sur la capacité intellectuelle sérieusement définie.

Outre les propositions dont nous avons parlé déjà, il faut y ajouter une autre question très-délicate, celle qui a trait aux décrets qui ont aboli le Ministère de l'Agriculture, Industrie et Commerce et institué le Ministère du Trésor.

Tout en reconnaissant la sagesse des intentions de nos honorables prédécesseurs et la conviction sincère de bien faire qui les a guidés dans cette mesure, cependant par respect pour des droits auxquels nous ne voulons pas porter atteinte, même avec des interprétations, nous croyons qu'il est de notre devoir de laisser le Parlement arbitre suprême de cet acte, tant sur la question de fond que sur celle de la constitutionnalité et de la légalité. Néanmoins, sans trop nous étendre sur cette question du Ministère d'Agriculture et Commerce, nous ne pouvons méconnaître l'activité déployée par ce Ministère pendant ces dernières années, ni les manifestations Parlementaires favorables à son rétablissement, ni les adresses qui nous sont parvenues des diverses Chambres de Commerce et d'ailleurs à l'effet de protester contre sa suppression.

Nous sommes convaincus, d'autre part, que la conservation des services qui dépendent de ce Ministère ne compense pas les pertes dérivant de la destruction de son unité et de la direction d'un Ministre responsable. Par conséquent, nous croyons que sa reconstitution se recommande également par des considérations d'utilité.

Nous sommes aussi d'avis que le Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Industrie et du Commerce, créé par une loi, ne peut pas être supprimé par un décret; nous admettons cependant que le doute puisse faire naître des opinions opposées, mais respectables; cette question ne peut donc être résolué que par un vote de la Chambre, à laquelle nous ferons appel au moyen d'un projet de loi que nous présenterons incessamment.

Je vous ai indiqué, messieurs, nos principales idées, nous croyons inutile de conclure par de pompeuses promesses; je déclare seulement que nous assumons cette rude charge non sans éprouver un pénible sentiment d'inquiétude, mais avec la ferme intention de mériter votre confiance. Nous ne demandons pas l'indulgence pour notre personnalité, mais la sévérité et la condamnation de nos actes si jamais ils déviaient de la ligne droite tracée par le devoir. Je puis cependant vous affirmer dès à présent que nous ferons notre devoir avec énergie et avec conscience. (Applaudissements frénétiques à gauche et aux Tribunes.)

M. Seismit Doda, Ministre des Finances, présente le Budget définitif du Ministère des Finances pour l'année 1878 et la situation du Trésor.

M. di Cesarò voudrait interroger le Gouvernement au sujet du décret augmentant le prix des tabacs.

On procède au tirage au sort pour la composition des bureaux.

A quatre heures, le Président annonce que la discussion est ouverte sur le Traité de Commerce avec la France.

M. Fabbricotti, Député de Massa, déplore que les nouveaux Traités aient rendu moins bonnes les conditions de l'industrie marbrière. Il combat le système des Traités de Commerce et dit que ces Traités sont contraires aux industries nationales.

M. Nervo fait un très-long discours, contenant des considérations générales sur le Traité de Commerce en discussion. Il termine en exprimant l'espoir que les nouveaux Ministres tiendront les promesses énoncées dans le discours du Président du Conseil.

M. Guala combat le projet du Traité de Commerce.

Diverses voix : A demain! à demain!

La séance est levée à 6 heures ¾.

Demain, séance à deux heures.

No. 664.

Mr. Adams to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 296. Secret.) *Paris, March 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my secret despatch No. 293 of yesterday, M. Waddington has informed me, in the strictest confidence, that Prince Orloff came to him yesterday afternoon by appointment, and made inquiries of him as to the appreciation by the French Government of the Treaty of San Stefano, the attitude taken up by England, and the question of her fleet remaining in the Sea of Marmora.

M. Waddington told me that he had been very reserved in his reply to Prince Orloff's questions, and that he had, in fact, been obliged to decline entering upon such matters with him. At the same time he repeated his invariable assertion that he was very much in favour of a Congress being held, though he was sorry to think that he could not see how the French Government could further so desirable an object at the present moment.

His Excellency also told me that he had repeated to the Russian Ambassador the wild language with respect to the Treaty and Prince Gortchakow which, as he was informed, was held by some people in St. Petersburgh, and which I yesterday reported to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 665.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 30.)

Admiralty, March 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Captain Hunt Grubbe of Her Majesty's ship "Devastation," dated Salonica 29th instant, and I am to request that you will inform Lord Derby that orders are about to be sent for the return of the "Devastation" to Besika Bay, whence she will proceed to relieve the "Sultan" (ordered home) in the Sea of Marmora.

Should, however, Lord Derby consider it desirable, another vessel will be sent to Salonica with orders to remain at that place in case of her services being required for the removal of the fugitives.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 665.

Captain Grubbe to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *"Devastation," Salonica, March 29, 1878, 3·5 P.M.*

GOVERNOR has consented that houseless families come to Salonica, and has sent for them. Some have arrived.

No. 666.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

Cairo, March 29, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

VICEROY tells me that he has been very uneasy at the prolonged detention of the Egyptian contingent at Varna, and that he has eagerly seized at the proposal of the Porte to send the troops to Salonica, his desire being in any case to get them on this side of the Bosphorus.

Meanwhile Prince Hassan has been quietly sending home all his military material and supplies for fear of their being impounded.

No. 667.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cairo, March 30, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, the apparently critical position of affairs between England and Russia induces me to call the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the defenceless state of Egypt so long as her troops are detained in Turkey. Viceroy expresses great anxiety to get them back.

No. 668.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 90.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 30, 1878.*

MOST of the leading Vienna newspapers are loud in approbation of the energetic attitude of Great Britain. The following is the substance of an article in to-day's "Fremden Blatt:"—

"A new phase has been entered upon, but though critical, the situation is not hopeless. Austria, however, has a most responsible duty to fulfil. On her action may depend even the destiny of her monarchy. One false step may be fatal. General Ignatieff is said to be bearer of proposals of conciliation. We required no Russian permission to protect our interests in Bosnia and Herzegovina. No Russian 'pourboire' will make us accept the Peace of San Stefano. What we require is the withdrawal of Russian troops from the west of the Balkan peninsula and the abandonment of Russian supremacy over Servia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Albania. The Eastern Question must be settled by all Europe, and Russia must recognize this right. Any compromise on our part which would be followed by an English-Russian war would, whatever the result, be the defeat of this country. We must therefore protect our interests, which are the same as England's, with all possible energy if we wish to preserve European peace.

No. 669.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 30, 1878.*

THE paper of which I forward the substance in my telegram, *en clair*, is always considered as semi-official.

No. 670.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Wyndham.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 30, 1878, 5 P.M.*

ADMIRALTY informed, by telegram from Gallipoli, dated March 28, that "Ruby" has returned from Volo, as she could render no assistance to fugitives.

Telegram from Italian Vice-Consul supposed to be a forgery.

No. 671.

Sir H. Elliot to the Earl of Derby.—(Received March 31.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 30, 1878.*

MR. MONSON has received information from Fiume that a Russian Admiral has arrived there in order to sign a contract for 150 additional torpedoes, and that there are nine Russian officers there whose deliberations are carried on with closed doors. It will be probably attempted to export these torpedoes as German property to Berlin. They can easily be verified by their diameter, which is different to that of a German weapon.

No. 672.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. 339. Secret.) *Constantinople, March* 30, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed by Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Russians are pressing Porte to surrender Batoum. Porte wishes to delay doing (?) so as long as possible. Have Her Majesty's Government any instructions to give me on the subject?

No. 673.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

Canea, March 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

FIGHTING occurred again on Wednesday, but ceased the same day.

No. 674.

Captain Fife to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

Gallipoli, March 30, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

LARGE bodies of Russians expected at Kashan to-day on way to Cadiqui from Adrianople. Kashan ceases to reply by telegraph to-day; telegraph to Constantinople through Asia also (?) interrupted.

No. 675.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received March* 31.)

(No. . Secret.) *Constantinople, March* 31, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE heard from more than one source, but give the information under reserve, that Generals Scobeleff and Gourko have received orders to prepare to make a dash on Gallipoli in the event of war between England and Russia being imminent (?), and that a corps d'armée is to take possession at the same time of Kavak, near entrance of the Bosphorus. A Greek merchant who has a large contract for provisions for Russian army has been ordered to keep them in Constantinople. A serious accident on the railway line in the direction of Tchorlu, in which a number of Russian soldiers have been killed, will interrupt for some time communication.

END.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON